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# REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

OF THE

Commission to Codify and Revise the Laws Relating to  
Poor Districts and the Care of the Poor

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA

---

WILLIAM J. TREMBATH, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

HARRY A. JONES, Washington, Pa.

EDWIN D. SOLENBERGER, Philadelphia, Pa.

*Commissioners*

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HARRISBURG, PENNA.

February, 1925

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Pennsylvania. Poor Law  
Commission.

Report and recommendations  
of the Commission to codify



Harrisburg, Pa., March 2, 1925.

The Commissioners appointed under the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly "providing for the appointment and expenses of a Commission of three persons to codify and revise laws relating to poor districts and the care of the poor and making an appropriation" No. 84, approved April 13, 1921, P. L. 136, and continued for the further period of two years by Act No. 434 of July 11, 1923, P. L. 1068, herewith have the honor to transmit their report together with their recommendations.

Respectfully submitted:

William J. Trembath

Harry A. Jones

Edwin D. Solenberger

### Commissioners

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## AN ACT

NO. 84, APRIL 13, 1921, P. L. 136

Providing for the appointment and expenses of a commission of three persons to codify and revise laws relating to poor districts and the care of the poor and making an appropriation.

Creation of  
Commission.

Section 1. Be it enacted. Etc., That the Governor is authorized to appoint a commission of three persons to codify and revise the laws relating to poor districts and the care of the poor, and to report the same to the next General Assembly recommending such changes in the existing law as may to such commission seem desirable.

Section 2. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for all expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

Section 3. The Legislative Reference Bureau is directed to render to said commission all necessary assistance required in the performance of their said duties.

Section 4. To carry out the purposes of this act the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby specifically appropriated to the use of the commission. Payment of the money shall be on order of the chairman of the commission and on warrant of the Auditor General.

Approved—The 13th day of April, A. D. 1921.

WM. C. SPROUL.

## Prefatory Note

Appointment  
of Commission.

In February 1922, Governor Wm. C. Sproul, in accordance with the foregoing Act appointed\* as Commissioners William J. Trembath, Esq., Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Harry A. Jones, Esq., Washington, Pa., and Edwin D. Solenberger, Philadelphia, Pa.

It was at once evident that before recommending any changes or revision and codification of the existing poor laws it would, of course, be necessary to assemble and to study them carefully. We also found it essential to have a complete list of all poor districts of the State, and almshouses under their control, properly classified.

Preliminary  
survey and  
continuation  
of Commission.

The Legislative Reference Bureau, which has been very helpful to the Commission, made for us a compilation of the existing general laws of the Commonwealth relating to poor districts, the care and support of the poor and their legal settlement. An examination of these general acts and the various special and local laws bearing on the subject indicated the need for much study and comparison of all the existing statutes before making any recommendations. In regard to the poor districts themselves, the information we needed was in a large part not available anywhere. We held hearings in various parts of the State in 1922 and conferred with interested officials of poor districts. As a result we secured much valuable information about the need for a revision and codification of the poor laws and a sufficient list of various poor districts in the State to show the importance of having the different systems properly classified and carefully studied in relation to present conditions and existing law. It became evident that more time was needed to collect the necessary information and to study it before making the report. In our preliminary survey we had expended about \$700.00 of our \$2,500.00 appropriation. Under these conditions, we asked for an extension of time and the reappropriation of the remaining \$1,800.00 which was granted by Act 434, approved by Governor Gifford Pinchot, July 11, 1923, P. L. 1068.

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\*The Commission met and organized the same month with William J. Trembath, Chairman, Harry A. Jones, Vice-Chairman, and Edwin D. Solenberger, Secretary.



## Report and Recommendations

Previous  
efforts for  
codification.

As long ago as 1876, when the Association of Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania was organized, there was discussion in regard to the necessity for a revision and codification of the poor laws of the State. Special effort was made about 1882 to have a Commission appointed. In 1889, Governor Beaver, in his message to the Legislature, called attention to the "demand made officially by the Association of Poor Directors of the State and privately by many localities and individuals for a revision of our poor laws. We have no general system for the care of and provision for our poor. The laws upon this subject should, also, be thoroughly revised and codified."†

Poor Law  
Commission of  
1889-'91.

In compliance with the Governor's recommendation, the Legislature of 1889 passed a bill authorizing the appointment of a Commission to revise and codify the laws relating to the relief, care and maintenance of the poor and to report at the 1891 session of the Legislature. The Governor appointed the following citizens to constitute the Commission: Lewis Pughe, Chairman, William Lawson, D. Watson Rowe, W. Edward Marsh, William Nevin Apple, Robert D. McGonigle, and J. Nevin Hill.

County unit  
system  
recommended

Without going into details in regard to the very interesting report of this Commission,\* it may be stated that they recommended the abolition of all township, borough or other local districts and the creation of the county unit system with each county a Poor District. The Commission prepared and had introduced into the Senate and House of Representatives a bill "For the relief and employment of the poor within the several counties of this Commonwealth and for the establishment of a State Poor Law Department." For various reasons, and perhaps in part because the proposed measure would have created a new Department in the State government, it failed of passage in spite of what was a very general desire on the part of many of the Poor Districts concerned for a revision and codification of the laws under which they operated.

Commission  
of 1913-'15.

There was no further attempt at general poor relief legislation until July 25, 1913, when Governor John K. Tener approved a joint resolution of the General Assembly "providing for a Commission to investigate and report upon the dependents of this Commonwealth and making an appropriation

†See *Penna. Archives, 4th Series, Vol. X, pp. 708-709.*

\**Penna. Executive Documents, 1891, Vol. VIII, Document No. 30, and History of Poor Relief Legislation in Pennsylvania, by Wm. C. Heffner, Page 241 ff.*

therefore." The Commissioners appointed by the Governor were: P. C. Boyle, Chairman, Judge Isaac Johnson, Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, Robert W. Herbert and Thomas J. Lynch.

This Commission, in its report to the Governor, dated February 11, 1915, referred to "the confusion that reigns in the matter of poor law administration within the Commonwealth" and "the need to repeal the present statutes and substitute for them one complete, comprehensive Act which shall bring about uniform procedure in relation to poor law administration." The Commission called attention to the lack of uniformity in provision for almshouse care and to the fact that the territorial arrangement of Poor Districts is irregular and unsystematic in many counties. They recommended that the county be made the minimum unit for Poor Districts, "to promote a more economical, efficient and humane administration than at present exists."

County unit  
system again  
recommended

However, the excellent suggestion of Governor Tener's Commission did not result in any revision and codification, but did have the beneficial result of again stimulating interest in the subject.

In 1917, the Association of Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania adopted a resolution authorizing the appointment of "a special Committee of five members of the Association, all of whom shall be learned in the law, who shall make a report at the next annual meeting of the Association on the Poor Laws of this Commonwealth together with a proposed Act of Assembly codifying the same." The Association did not hold its annual meeting in the fall of 1918 on account of the influenza epidemic.

Further efforts  
for  
codification.

At the Convention of the Association of Directors of the Poor in 1919, various difficulties in the way of codification were discussed, but no action was taken until the Convention of 1920 when a resolution was passed urging that legislative authority be secured for the appointment of a Commission to revise and codify the poor laws. In accordance with this resolution, the Committee on Legislation of the Association of Directors of the Poor had prepared and was instrumental in helping to secure the passage of the Act\* which resulted in the appointment of the present Commission.

Origin of  
present  
Commission.

While the Commission has examined to some extent the history of poor relief legislation in Pennsylvania, it does not seem relevant to present a review of that in this connection. The series of measures that contain the fundamentals of the Pennsylvania poor laws go back for their origin to the reign of Henry VIII in England. We have inherited from the colonial days a form of poor law system and administration brought over from the mother country. In the succeeding

Beginning of  
Pennsylvania  
Poor Laws.

\*Act No. 84 of April 13, 1921, P. L. 136.

years there have been passed various general acts and much local and special legislation, but there has been no revision and codification.

Lack of  
uniformity.

Under these conditions, it is not surprising that we have lack of uniformity in our poor laws and their administration. Naturally some of the survivals of the ancient system are no longer adapted to present day conditions in our State.

Legislative  
Reference  
Bureau survey  
for the  
Commission.

In addition to the compilation of the existing general poor laws already referred to\*, Mr. John H. Fertig, Assistant Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, under date of April 1, 1924, submitted a "survey with regard to the numerous local poor districts in the several counties of the Commonwealth, being a study of the many general and local laws which have been adopted from time to time." In commenting on this, Mr. Fertig wrote "Necessarily the result of this survey is unsatisfactory in many respects. It is frequently impossible from a search of the laws to definitely fix the status of many local poor districts or their exact territory. Possibly the worst confusion is caused by municipal incorporations and the annexation of territory. This brings about a constant changing of municipal lines while the lines of the poor district remain rigid. Thus the territory of a city or borough, due to its recent incorporation or its growth, is found to lie partly in several poor districts. . . . One thing is apparent as the result of this survey: that the local poor districts and the laws governing these districts are so numerous and their status so questionable that the adoption of some general system for the whole State seems to be the only remedy."

Legislative  
Reference  
Bureau studies  
available for  
reference.

Both of these valuable reports by the Legislative Reference Bureau are on file there. While they are too long to make it practicable for us to print them in this connection, they may be consulted for reference by anyone interested.

Present poor  
district  
systems.

Using the above noted reports of the Legislative Reference Bureau and the information the Commission collected in regard to the 583 poor districts of the State†, we present the following brief statement of the present system of poor law administration in Pennsylvania.

U I. **County Unit System administered by Directors of the Poor** in the following 28 counties:

Adams	Chester	Greene	Montgomery
Allegheny	Cumberland	Huntingdon	Northampton
Bedford	Dauphin	Lancaster	Perry
Berks	Delaware	Lebanon	Schuylkill
Blair ✓	Erie	Lehigh	Somerset
Bucks	Fayette	Mercer	Washington
Cambria	Franklin	Mifflin	York

Exception: In Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh is not included in the county Poor District—the care of the poor within the city limits being left to the municipality.

\*See page 7.

†See page 31 to page 40.



Almshouses: Each of these 28 counties owns and maintains an almshouse.

These county Poor Districts were created by special law—the earliest being Lancaster and Chester in 1798 and the most recent being Blair in 1860. The corporate name in each county is “The Directors of the Poor and of the House of Employment for the County of.....” The administration is in the hands of three Directors of the Poor (except Lancaster County which has six Directors) elected for four years and receiving a fixed salary for their services. These Directors furnish an annual budget to the County Commissioners who place the item in the county budget and raise the money necessary by county taxation.

**II. County unit administered by County Commissioners acting as Directors of the Poor in the following 15 counties:**

Beaver	Clearfield	Indiana	Tioga
Bradford	Crawford	Jefferson	Venango
Butler	Elk	McKean	Warren
Clarion	Forest	Potter	

Exception: In McKean County, the City of Bradford is not a part of the county Poor District but has a separate organization and an almshouse.

Almshouses: A county almshouse is owned and maintained by each of these 15 counties.

The county unit system in force in the above counties is created under the General Law of June 4, 1879, P. L. 78, the provisions of which created the county a Poor District and made it a part of the duties of the County Commissioners to act as Directors of the Poor. The County Commissioners receive additional compensation on a scale fixed according to the population of the county. The Act excepts from a District created under its provisions the territory of any existing city. The Act is optional and is in force only in those counties which accept its provisions by vote of the electors. The tax levy is limited to a maximum of one cent on the dollar.

**III. County unit administered by Directors of the Home for the Destitute:**

**Westmoreland County**

The only county having this special system is Westmoreland which was created a county unit in 1849 under Directors of the Poor. In 1885 by the Act of June 4, P. L. 72, it is provided that the Act of 1849, April 5, P. L. 353, is to be repealed so as to bring the regulation, management and control of the House of Employment and support of the poor under the provisions of the Act of May 8, 1876, P. L. 149, and its supplements. The corporate name is “Directors of a Home for the Destitute of the County of.....” Three

Directors are elected for a four-year term. The Directors submit their expense budget to the County Commissioners who collect the money by county taxation.

#### IV. Township and Borough System:

Administered by Overseers of the Poor in the following 11 counties:

Armstrong	Fulton*	Pike*	Union
Cameron*	Juniata*	Snyder*	Wyoming*
Centre	Monroe†	Sullivan*	

Almshouses: The seven counties marked with an asterisk (\*) do not have any almshouses. The other counties in this group, while they do not have **county** almshouses, each have one or more township or borough almshouses.

Overseers of the poor—usually two in number—are elected. They are authorized to levy taxes for poor purposes, subject to certain restrictions. With the approval of the Court, they may provide a poor house, or two or more township or borough districts may unite and provide a poor house or poor farm. The overseers may contract for lodging for the poor by boarding them out and they are also authorized to bind out apprentices to the age of 21 and to employ destitute persons on roads or on poor farms, and they “must find work for able-bodied out of employment”. Outdoor relief is not specifically mentioned as a matter of “relief”. Overseers must provide (a) for every poor person settled in district; (b) means of subsistence for persons unable to work; (c) support, shelter, medicine, medical attendance and nursing for needy, sick and injured persons, and burial; (d) treatment for indigent persons in danger of hydrophobia, including Pasteur treatment; (e) care of quarantined poor; (f) and may make appropriations to institutions assisting poor.

#### V. City, Township and Borough System.

Administered by Overseers of the Poor in the three following counties:

Clinton	Lawrence	Lycoming
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Clinton County: The following modifications are to be noted:

Lock Haven—The Act of March 27, 1866, P. L. 350, gives the council of Lock Haven power to levy a poor tax not exceeding five mills, and this body appoints annually one Overseer of the Poor.

\*See footnote on page 34. concerning Juniata County.

†See page 17, footnote 3.

Renovo—The Act of February 17, 1872, P. L. 113, gives the council of Renovo power to levy the poor tax, and this body appoints annually one Overseer of the Poor and fixes his compensation.

†Lawrence County. The only exception in the County from the township and borough Overseer system is the City of New Castle, which by the Act of April 10, 1873, P. L. 606, has "Directors of the Poor."

Lycoming County. Operates under the township and borough Overseer system except that the City of Williamsport is constituted a separate Poor District with Directors appointed by the City Council.

Almshouses: There are no **county** almshouses in this group and none of the townships or boroughs of these 3 counties have almshouses, but each of the city Districts have local almshouses.

**VI. Mixed Township and Borough Districts.** This system applies to six counties as follows:

Carbon	Luzerne	Susquehanna
Columbia	Montour	Wayne

Carbon County. Six boroughs and four townships, belong to the Middle Coal Field Poor District which includes a portion of Luzerne County. The remainder of the county has the township and borough system with Overseers of the Poor.

Columbia County. The borough and township system exists with two mixed Poor Districts; namely, Bloom Poor District, including three townships one borough, and Bloomsburg Town, and Centralia Borough and Conynham Township District.

Luzerne County. Includes the township and borough system, and mixed Districts as follows:

Central Poor District, including the City of Wilkes-Barre and 18 boroughs and six townships.

Middle Coal Field District, including the City of Hazelton, three boroughs and two townships and a portion of Carbon County.

Jenkins Township, Pittston City and Pittston Township Poor District, including Pittston City and six boroughs and two townships and a portion of Lackawanna County.

Montour County. The township and borough system prevails, except one mixed District; namely Danville Borough and Mahoning Township Poor District. For possible exception in the case of Washingtonville Borough, see foot-note to page 37.

Susquehanna County. The township and borough system prevails, with mixed Districts as follows:

†See page 17, footnote 1.

Auburn and Rush Township Poor District, and Susquehanna Depot and Oakland Township Poor District.

Wayne County. Township and borough system, except a mixed District; namely, Honesdale Borough and Texas Township Poor District.

Almshouses: Each of the mixed Districts have an almshouse, but there are none for the township and borough districts, except one in Columbia that is closed, and two township poor houses in Montour, and one township and two borough almshouses in Susquehanna. There are no county almshouses in this group.

**VII. City, Mixed and Township and Borough System:** Each of these systems are found in the two following counties:

Lackawanna

Northumberland

Lackawanna County. While the county has both township and borough Poor Districts, most of the territory is included in mixed Districts; namely Blakely Poor District including six boroughs and one-half of another; Jenkins Township, Pittston City and Pittston Township Poor District including two townships, three boroughs, 22nd Ward of the City of Scranton, and a portion of Luzerne County; Lakeview Poor District including eight townships and four boroughs; and Scranton Poor District including the Borough of Dunmore and all of Scranton City except the 22nd Ward.

Northumberland County. The township and borough system prevails in the County, except Coal Township and Shamokin Borough Poor District which is a mixed District, and Sunbury which is a city Poor District.

Almshouses: Each of the mixed Districts and city Districts have almshouses. In Lackawanna County none of the township or borough Districts have almshouses. In Northumberland County one township and two boroughs have almshouses, while the almshouse for another borough is now closed. There are no **county** almshouses in this group.

**VIII. Municipal Government System and City Ward Districts:**

Philadelphia

This is the only county having this system. The Philadelphia Consolidation Act of 1854 exempted from the City Poor District the Roxborough Poor District and the township Poor Districts of Bristol, Byberry, Germantown, Moreland, and Oxford and Lower Dublin. These are now included in certain wards of the City of Philadelphia but continue as separate Poor Districts\*.

The Department of Welfare of the City of Philadelphia which is coterminous with the County, operates under a special

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\*For details see page 38.



Act known as "An Act for the Better Government of Cities of the First Class of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," approved June 25, 1919, which established the Department of Public Welfare to "have the care, management, administration and supervision of all charitable, correctional and reformatory institutions and agencies (including any House of Correction, but not including hospitals), the control and government of which is entrusted to such city". The Director of this Department, therefore, by virtue of this Act, became a Director of the Poor. The care of the poor in the Department however, extends only to that part of the city not included in the above Poor Districts.

#### Almshouses:—

The Philadelphia Home for the Indigent is under the jurisdiction of the City Department of Public Welfare, while the Poor Districts of Germantown, Oxford and Lower Dublin, and Roxborough each have an almshouse. Bristol, Byberry and Moreland Districts do not have almshouses.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that the county unit plan is found in 44 counties administered under three systems—by Directors of the Poor, by County Commissioners acting as Directors of the Poor, and by Directors of a Home for the Destitute. An exclusively township and borough Overseers system is found in 11 counties, and in three other counties with the addition of a City District in each one. Six counties have the township and borough system in part, but each with one or more Mixed Districts. Two counties include within their borders a combination of City, Mixed, Township and Borough Districts, and one county has a Municipal Government system and City Ward Districts—former Borough and Township Districts.

Five hundred and eighty-three (583) is the total number of Poor Districts we have found in the 67 counties of Pennsylvania. Table No. 1, pages 16-17, shows the distribution of all the Poor Districts classified by counties, and the wide variation in the number of districts within a given county, ranging from one district to 52.

Each of the 44 county Districts has an almshouse serving the entire county, except in Allegheny County an additional institution is maintained by the City of Pittsburgh, and in McKean County the City of Bradford has an almshouse separate from the one maintained by the county. Each city, municipal government, or mixed District has an almshouse. A striking difference is noted in the counties having in whole or in part the township or borough system. Seven of these counties have no almshouses within their borders, while 16 other such counties have only local almshouses mostly confined to small Districts—leaving a large part of their territory without provision for indoor care. Only 10 of the 381 township Districts and only 11 of the 137 borough Districts have

Eight systems  
of poor law  
administration  
in 583 Poor  
Districts.

Distribution of  
86 almshouses  
and 583 Poor  
Districts.

**TABLE 1**  
**DISTRIBUTION IN COUNTIES OF COUNTY, TOWNSHIP, BOROUGH,**  
**CITY OR MUNICIPAL, AND MIXED POOR DISTRICTS**

County	County District	Township District	Borough District	City or Municipal Government District	Mixed District		Total
					Parts of Two Counties	Part of One County	
Adams	1						1
Allegheny	1			1			2
Armstrong		27	18				45
Beaver	1						1
Bedford	1						1
Berks	1						1
Blair	1						1
Bradford	1						1
Bucks	1						1
Butler	1						1
Cambria	1						1
Cameron		5	2				7
Carbon		8	6		1		15
Center		25	10				35
Chester	1						1
Clarion	1						1
Clearfield	1						1
Clinton		21	7	1			29
Columbia		19	6			2	27
Crawford	1						1
Cumberland	1						1
Dauphin	1						1
Delaware	1						1
Elk	1						1
Erie	1						1
Fayette	1						1
Forest	1						1
Franklin	1						1
Fulton		11	1				12
Greene	1						1
Huntingdon	1						1
Indiana	1						1
Jefferson	1						1
Juniata		13	4				17
Lackawanna		9	7	1	1	3	21
Lancaster	1						1
(1) Lawrence		17	7	1			25
Lebanon	1						1

**TABLE 1**  
**DISTRIBUTION IN COUNTIES OF COUNTY, TOWNSHIP, BOROUGH,**  
**CITY OR MUNICIPAL, AND MIXED POOR DISTRICTS**  
 (Continued)

County	County District	Township District	Borough District	City or Municipal Government District	Mixed District		Total
					Parts of Two Counties	Part of One County	
Lehigh	1						1
2) Luzerne		25	9			1	35
Lycoming		42	9	1			52
McKean	1			1			2
Mercer	1						1
Mifflin	1						1
3) Monroe		16	3				19
Montgomery	1						1
Montour		8	1			1	10
Northampton	1						1
Northumberland		23	11	1		1	36
Perry	1						1
4) Philadelphia		5	1	1			7
Pike		11	2				13
Potter	1						1
Schuylkill	1						1
Snyder		15	4				19
Somerset	1						1
Sullivan		9	4				13
Susquehanna		22	12			2	36
Tioga	1						1
Union		10	4				14
Venango	1						1
Warren	1						1
Washington	1						1
Wayne		22	4			1	27
Westmoreland	1						1
Wyoming		18	5				23
York	1						1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>583</b>

- (1) Lawrence County has voted to adopt the county unit system.
- (2) Luzerne County in addition has a part of its territory in two other mixed districts—one counted in Carbon County and the other counted in Lackawanna County.
- (3) Monroe County has voted to adopt the county unit system.
- (4) Philadelphia, includes the former Borough of Roxborough now part of the 22nd, 23rd, 35th, 41st and 42nd Wards of the City of Philadelphia, and the former townships of Bristol now in 42nd Ward of Philadelphia, Germantown now in 22nd Ward, Oxford and Lower Dublin now part of 23rd, 35th and 41st Wards, Byberry now part of 35th Ward and Moreland now part of 35th Ward.

almshouses. This leaves without almshouses 371 townships with a population of 336,438 and 126 boroughs with a population of 171,988. Thus a total of 497 Poor Districts, embracing a population of 508,426 people, have no provision for indoor care of their aged and infirmed public dependents. Tables No. 2 and No. 3, on pages 20 and 21, give further details, and show the number of almshouses in relation to the population of the counties and the number of poor districts within their borders. Table No. 3 shows how little relationship there is between the size of the county and the number of almshouses or poor districts.

Range of  
population in  
relation to  
poor districts.

The smallest and the largest county in the State have the same number of poor districts—seven in each. The next to the largest county has only two poor districts while the next to the smallest county has 13. A county with 14,101 population has 23 poor districts or an average of one for each 613 people in the county. This county does not have an almshouse, while another county with the same population has three almshouses and 10 poor districts. A rural county with 27,000 population has 27 poor districts, while another rural county with 30,000 population has only one poor district. Each has an almshouse, but one serves the entire county while the other is limited to one of the local poor districts in the county. An agricultural county with 34,000 population has 36 poor districts and five almshouses, while another agricultural county with the same population has only one poor district and one almshouse. Similarly an agricultural county with 53,000 population has one almshouse and one poor district, administered by the County Commissioners, while a neighboring county with similar size and conditions has 27 poor districts and five almshouses.

These counties have about the same topographical conditions and about the same relative density of population. Again, a county with 7,400 population has an almshouse with County Commissioners acting as Directors of the Poor, while the next larger and the next smaller counties have 13 poor districts each and no almshouses. These three counties are approximately the same size and have about the same relative density of population. The smallest poor district in the State has only 100 population, a number have less than 200. About half of the township and borough districts do not exceed 950 in population.

Further illustration of the wide variation in poor law administration in counties, both with the same, and also with very different conditions, may be found in Table No. 3, page 21. Table No. 4, page 22, shows the marked range in the population of the counties operating under the various poor district systems. The total population, grouped by counties according to the system each has, is also shown.

Three counties of about the same area, density and kind of population have, in one a single poor district, with one

Size of  
counties and  
density of  
population in  
relation to  
poor districts.



almshouse under a county Poor Board, in the second 35 Township and Borough Poor Boards and four almshouses, while in the third there is one county poor district and one almshouse administered by County Commissioners. A county with 528 square miles and a population of 110 per square mile has one poor district and one almshouse administered by Directors of the Poor, while a county with about the same area and density of population has 45 poor districts and 2 almshouses. Again, a county with 806 square miles and a population of 43 per square mile has one poor district and one almshouse administered by the County Commissioners, while a county with about the same area and density of population has a mixed, township, and borough system with 36 poor districts and 5 almshouses.

A county with 451 square miles and a population of 634 per square mile has a combination of city, mixed, and township and borough poor districts numbering 21, with five almshouses, while a county of the same area and having the same system of administration with 36 poor districts and five almshouses has a population density of only 268 per square mile.

Many other illustrations could be given showing that there does not appear to be much relationship between the size of a county, density of population, total population, and the kind of poor district system that it happens to have. Further details will be found in Table No. 5, page 23, showing the range of area and population per square mile in relation to the various types of poor districts.

An examination of Table No. 6, page 24, shows that a majority of the counties of the State already have the county unit system of poor districts. All counties of the Second, Fourth and Fifth Classes but one are on a county unit basis; in the Sixth Class all but four have county districts and one of them voted recently to adopt the county system\*; in the Seventh Class counties there are only six exceptions to the county district plan and one of them has recently voted to adopt it\*. In counties of the Third Class, one has the county unit system while two have mixed, city, borough and township districts.

Poor Districts  
in relation to  
classification of  
counties by  
Act of  
Assembly.

The Eighth Class counties have only one on the county unit plan—all the others having the township and borough system except one which has within its borders a mixed district. The First Class County has a municipal government system and city ward districts—former borough and township districts. Thus, in the 56 counties from the Second to the Seventh Class inclusive, all but 13 are on a county unit basis, while of the 11 counties in the First and the Eighth Classes only one has the county system.

\*See Table No. 3, foot note 3, page 21.

**TABLE 2**

**CLASSIFICATION OF POOR DISTRICTS AND DISTRIBUTION  
OF ALMSHOUSES THEREIN**

	County Districts	(1) Township Districts	(2) Borough Districts	City or Municipal Districts	(3) Mixed Districts		Total
					Parts of Two Counties	Part of One County	
(4) No. of Districts	44	381	137	8	2	11	583
No. of Alms Houses	44	10	11	8	2	11	86

(1) Township Districts:—Includes in Philadelphia County the former townships of Bristol, now in 42nd Ward of the City; Germantown, now in 22nd Ward; Oxford and Lower Dublin, now part of the 23rd, 35th and 41st Wards; Byberry, now part of 35th Ward; and Moreland, now part of 35th Ward.

(2) Borough Districts:—Includes in Philadelphia County the former Borough of Roxborough, now part of 22nd, 23rd, 35th, 41st and 42nd Wards of the City of Philadelphia.

(3) Mixed Districts:—Including less than a county but more than one city, township or borough as a Poor District.

(4) Population of Township and Borough Poor Districts without Alms Houses:

371 Townships .....	336,438
126 Borough .....	171,988

Total population of Poor Districts without Alms Houses.....508,426

# TABLE 3

## \*POPULATION OF COUNTIES AND NUMBER OF POOR DISTRICTS AND ALMSHOUSES

County	Population	No. of Poor Districts	No. of Alms- houses	County	Population	No. of Poor Districts	No. of Alms- houses
Cameron	6,297	7	None	<sup>1</sup> Carbon	62,565	15	1
Pike	6,818	13	None	Lebanon	63,152	1	1
Forest	7,477	1	1	Armstrong	75,568	45	2
Sullivan	9,520	13	None	Butler	77,270	1	1
Fulton	9,617	12	None	Indiana	80,910	1	1
Montour	14,080	10	3	Somerset	82,112	1	1
Wyoming	14,101	23	None	Bucks	82,476	1	1
Juniata	14,464	17	None	Lycoming	83,100	52	1
Union	15,850	14	1	<sup>3</sup> Lawrence	85,545	25	1
Snyder	17,129	19	None	Mercer	93,788	1	1
Potter	21,089	1	1	Clearfield	103,236	1	1
Perry	22,875	1	1	Beaver	111,621	1	1
<sup>3</sup> Monroe	24,295	19	3	Chester	115,120	1	1
Wayne	27,435	27	1	Northumberland	122,079	36	5
Greene	30,804	1	1	Blair	128,334	1	1
Mifflin	31,439	1	1	York	144,521	1	1
Clinton	33,555	29	1	Lehigh	148,101	1	1
Adams	34,583	1	1	Dauphin	153,116	1	1
Susquehanna	34,763	36	5	Northampton	153,506	1	1
Elk	34,981	1	1	Erie	153,536	1	1
Clarion	36,170	1	1	Delaware	173,084	1	1
Tioga	37,118	1	1	Lancaster	173,797	1	1
Bedford	38,277	1	1	Fayette	188,104	1	1
Huntingdon	39,848	1	1	Washington	188,992	1	1
Warren	40,024	1	1	Cambria	197,839	1	1
Center	44,304	35	4	Montgomery	199,310	1	1
Columbia	48,349	27	2	Berks	200,854	1	1
McKean	48,934	2	2	Schuylkill	217,754	1	1
Bradford	53,166	1	1	Westmoreland	273,568	1	1
Cumberland	58,578	1	1	<sup>2</sup> Lackawanna	286,311	21	5
Venango	59,184	1	1	Luzerne	390,991	35	1
Crawford	60,667	1	1	Allegheny	1,185,808	2	2
Jefferson	62,104	1	1	Philadelphia	1,823,779	7	4
Franklin	62,275	1	1				
				Total	8,720,017	<sup>3</sup> 583	<sup>4</sup> 86

\*For alphabetical list of counties with names of Poor Districts and Almshouses see pages 31 to 40.

<sup>1</sup>Carbon County. Includes Middle Coal Field Poor District, a portion of whose territory lies in Luzerne County.

<sup>2</sup>Lackawanna County. Includes Jenkins Township, Pittston City and Pittston Township Poor District, a portion of whose territory lies in Luzerne County.

<sup>3</sup>Monroe and Lawrence Counties have voted to abolish their township and borough poor districts and to adopt the county district system.

A. In the above Poor Districts, at present there are no Directors of the Poor elected for five Township Poor Districts and for three Borough Poor Districts. It is believed that a number of other Township and Borough Districts are without active officers.

B. Closed Almshouses. In addition to the above, there are four closed at present: Madison Township Almshouse, Widnoon, Armstrong County, Madison Township Home, Jerseytown, Columbia County, Northumberland Borough Almshouse, Northumberland County, and Selinsgrove Borough Poor House, Snyder County.

**TABLE 4**

**RANGE OF POPULATION OF COUNTIES IN RELATION  
TO POOR DISTRICTS**

Kind of Poor District System	Number of Counties	Population		Total
		From	To	
(1) County Unit with Directors of the Poor	28	22,875	217,754	4,361,983
(2) County Unit with County Commissioners	15	7,477	111,621	833,951
Directors of Home for the Destitute	1			273,568
Township and Borough Districts	11	6,297	75,568	237,963
City, Township and Borough Districts	3	33,555	85,545	202,200
Mixed, Township and Borough Districts	6	14,080	390,991	578,183
City, Mixed, Township and Borough Districts	2	122,079	286,311	408,390
(3) City Ward Districts and Municipal Government District	1	7,132	1,603,385	1,823,779

Total population of State.....8,720,017

- (1) Total includes in Allegheny County the City of Pittsburgh, a municipal government district with a population of 588,343, and Allegheny County Poor District with a population of 597,465, being the highest in this group of poor districts; Schuylkill County with population of 217,754, being the next highest in this group.
- (2) Total includes in McKean County the City of Bradford, a municipal government district with a population of 15,525.
- (3) Philadelphia. Total includes a population of 220,394 for the 22nd, 23rd, 35th, 41st and 42nd Wards. These Wards cover practically the area of one former borough and five former township poor districts still independent of the municipal government district which includes the remainder of the City with a population of 1,603,385.

**TABLE 5**

**RANGE OF AREA AND POPULATION PER SQUARE MILE OF COUNTIES  
IN RELATION TO POOR DISTRICTS**

Kind of Poor District System	Number of Counties	Area in Square Miles		(4) Population Per Square Mile	
		From	To	From	To
(1) County Unit with Directors of the Poor	28	185	1026	37	1635
(2) County Unit with County Commissioners	15	423	1145	17	260
Directors of Home for the Destitute	1		1039		263
Township and Borough Districts	11	305	1146	12	115
City, Township and Borough Districts	3	360	1220	38	237
Mixed, Township and Borough Districts	6	130	892	37	438
City, Mixed, Township and Borough Districts	2	451	454	268	634
(3) City Ward Districts and Municipal Government District	1		133		13712

- (1) Includes in Allegheny County the City of Pittsburgh which has a municipal government poor district in addition to the county district.
- (2) Includes in McKean County the City of Bradford which has a municipal government poor district in addition to the county district.
- (3) Includes in Philadelphia the city ward district—former borough and township districts—and the municipal government district.
- (4) The average population per square mile in Pennsylvania is 194.5. In this table the decimal points are omitted.



**TABLE 6**

**CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTIES ACCORDING TO POPULATION  
AS OF 1920**

**Under Act No. 351 of July 10, 1919—P. L. 887**

<i>1st Class (over 1,500,000)</i>			
Philadelphia			
<i>2nd Class (over 800,000—less than 1,500,000)</i>			
†Allegheny			
<i>3rd Class (over 250,000—less than 800,000)</i>			
Lackawanna	Luzerne	†Westmoreland	
<i>4th Class (over 150,000—less than 250,000)</i>			
†Berks	†Delaware	†Lancaster	†Schuylkill
†Cambria	†Erie	†Montgomery	†Washington
†Dauphin	†Fayette	†Northampton	
<i>5th Class (over 100,000—less than 150,000)</i>			
*Beaver	†Chester	†Lehigh	†York
†Blair	*Clearfield	Northumberland	
<i>6th Class (over 50,000—less than 100,000)</i>			
Armstrong	Carbon	*Indiana	Lycoming
*Bradford	*Crawford	*Jefferson	†Mercer
†Bucks	†Cumberland	Lawrence	†Somerset
*Butler	†Franklin	†Lebanon	*Venango
<i>7th Class (over 20,000—less than 50,000)</i>			
†Adams	Columbia	†Mifflin	*Tioga
†Bedford	*Elk	Monroe	*Warren
Center	†Greene	†Perry	Wayne
*Clarion	†Huntingdon	*Potter	
Clinton	*McKean	Susquehanna	
<i>8th Class (less than 20,000)</i>			
Cameron	Juniata	Snyder	Wyoming
*Forest	Montour	Sullivan	
Fulton	Pike	Union	

\*The County Commissioners act as Directors of the Poor in all of the counties marked with an asterisk (\*), except in the county of McKean the City of Bradford is not included—as it has an independent District. †The counties marked with a dagger (†) have separate Poor Boards with jurisdiction over the entire county, except in Allegheny County where the City of Pittsburgh is not included. In Westmoreland County the Directors of the Home for the Destitute of the county operate substantially as do the Directors of the Poor in the counties marked with an asterisk (\*). The counties not marked have township, borough or municipal government districts or a mixed system. Fuller explanation is given elsewhere. See pages 10 to 15.

- (A) Act No. 246 of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538, provides in counties of the 6th class, subject to a majority vote of the electors of the county, for the abolition of the present Poor Districts and the creation of County Poor Districts under the management, direction and control of the County Commissioners.
- (B) Act No. 401 of May 24, 1921, P. L. 1081, makes substantially the same provision for counties of the 7th class.
- (C) Act No. 89 of June 4, 1879, P. L. 78, also provides a method by which the Poor Districts of the county, subject to certain restrictions, may be consolidated into a county unit under the jurisdiction of the County Commissioners.

A presumption in favor of the county unit for poor law administration is created by the fact that a majority of the counties of Pennsylvania have already\* adopted it. The county poor relief system also prevails in almost all other states in the Union. The county unit system in Pennsylvania has been found to be adaptable to counties chiefly rural as well as to those containing large urban centers of population. All types of counties are represented among those now operating on a county-wide basis for poor relief. This includes counties whose interests are mainly agricultural or manufacturing, or mining, or a combination of all three. The small local districts on a township or borough basis are really a survival of the poor relief system as it was transplanted from England into Pennsylvania in the colonial days before the present division of counties existed. In some Pennsylvania counties the poor districts were originally established on a county basis, while others first having the township and borough system have abandoned it in favor of the county unit system. As stated elsewhere, 44 of the counties, or about two-thirds of the total, already have the county district plan.

Presumption in favor of county as a poor district unit.

Inadequate provision is made for outdoor relief in many of the township and borough districts—in fact a number of them have not even elected overseers. In some cases those elected have not taken the trouble to qualify and to enter upon their duties. In others, it is known that they are inactive except when someone hunts them up and brings cases to their attention. In the small districts where they do not maintain institutions it is not practicable for the overseers to have an office or headquarters, and many people do not know who they are nor where to find them. It was only with the greatest difficulty that the Commission succeeded in getting the corporate names of many of these local districts. In a considerable number of cases it has not been possible to secure the names and addresses of the overseers themselves.

Overseers not elected in some districts—difficult of access in others.

Under these conditions, cases of real need are frequently not brought to the attention of local poor relief officials when they should be. Thus, families are needlessly broken up. Widows and deserted wives are compelled to give up their children for lack of the attention and assistance that are given where there are county wide poor districts with headquarters and a systematic division of the territory for relief purposes. In the long run, this is not an economy for the counties having these small local poor districts. Neglect of families in distress and failure to give prompt relief often means a larger expenditure later in caring for dependent, neglected, delinquent or defective children as well as for adults. The territory having the township and borough poor district system has the least provision for private charitable assistance. Many of these districts are remote from the larger urban centers where the private social agencies are mostly to be found. This

Real need not adequately met in small districts.

makes the need for adequate provision for the right kind of public relief and care all the more important.

Almshouse  
care not pro-  
vided in many  
local districts.

Much of the territory covered by the township and borough poor districts does not have any provision for almshouse care. This applies to 497 township and borough districts, with a total population of 508,426 (as shown in Table No. 2). In some cases it is known that neglect and hardship exist, as no other provision has been made for the care of sick and aged infirm persons unable to look after themselves without assistance. It is known that some such cases are boarded out in private families. Perhaps, theoretically, this boarding out plan is good. In practice, however, many complaints have been made that the method is both expensive and unsatisfactory to all concerned. Conditions are even worse, when costs are kept down by boarding out, with the lowest bidder, the unfortunate dependent.

County  
almshouse or  
home prefer-  
able.

The county district system would lighten the burden of erecting and maintaining an almshouse by spreading out the cost over a considerable territory. The per capita, if proper care be given the inmates, is necessarily higher in a small almshouse. Experience has shown that an almshouse serving a larger territory with a correspondingly larger number of inmates can give better service. It makes possible classification of those needing its care and permits of a more satisfactory administration in all respects. It also makes it possible to secure the services of more competent officials with better pay than in the small local almshouse with only a few inmates.

Small districts  
not necessarily  
the most  
economical.

The belief that the administration of poor relief on the "Township or Borough Plan" is the most economical, is chiefly due to the fact that the actual costs for all these small local districts in any given county are never brought together in one bill. The taxpayer does not realize the total amount. A small stipend paid out for a few days' service per year to from twenty up to one hundred overseers, as is the case in some counties, gives much less value to the taxpayer in return for the money than to combine all these pittance into a salary that will secure one or more qualified persons, according to the size of the county, to give their entire time. Again, the overseer in the small district, with only a few cases, does not gain the experience and understanding to enable him to do as good a piece of public charity work as officers giving more time and serving an entire county. Studies that have been made of costs indicate that when all factors are taken into consideration, the expense is greater for the small townships and boroughs on the basis of the actual number of persons helped as compared with the larger districts, considering both on a per capita basis. The districts that, the Commission recommends, should be abolished in favor of the county unit system are, we believe, too small for the most efficient and economical administration.



The small township and borough poor districts have had a disproportionate amount of expensive litigation over legal settlement questions. Easy means of transportation and changing conditions affecting the employment of unskilled labor has resulted in the boundary lines of these local poor districts being crossed constantly by those seeking employment or a change in the hope of improving their condition. It is known that a considerable number of applications for relief come from transient families, as well as from homeless men and women who move frequently. The poor laws contain provisions in regard to the care of public dependents without settlement. Thus many township and borough poor districts are called upon to deal with those not having legal settlement within their borders—although they may have been residents of the particular county for years. Many questions have arisen between these small districts about modes of obtaining legal settlement relating to families as a whole and to husbands, wives, minors, widows, deserted wives, unmarried women, illegitimates and others. An examination of the cases that have been before the Courts shows that a large proportion have been between these local poor districts within a county. The abolition of 459 such districts in 19 counties and the establishment of county-wide districts in their place would eliminate such needless litigation. Unnecessary hardship on the part of the unfortunate when in real need of relief would also be avoided.

The county poor districts have an advantage over small local districts in that they are coterminous with other county activities with which co-operation is desirable. The Mothers' Assistance Fund for the relief of widows is administered on a county basis. The Juvenile Court is on a county basis, and orders made in court for the public support of dependent, neglected or delinquent children, are on the County Commissioners. In some cases dependent children, who should be looked after by the poor law officials, are taken to the county Juvenile Court because those interested in seeing that they receive the protection and care of the public authorities cannot readily find the local overseers—they seldom have official headquarters. Moreover they usually do not have the facilities to care for children. More and more health and other welfare activities both public and private are centering about the county seat with the county as a unit of operation. Again, poor law officials have important functions to perform in co-operation with various State institutions in providing for the mentally ill—the feeble-minded and the insane, the blind, the deaf and dumb, incurables and many other special cases. All this can be done much more effectively, promptly and conveniently by a county board than by a small local board of limited jurisdiction. Manifestly the county district makes possible a higher development of poor law administration.

Local community retains authority. Home rule not affected.

Exceptions in the proposed Code

Principal changes proposed.

Interested and capable officials can, we believe, operate to much better advantage for all concerned on a county basis.

The proposed code does not transfer any authority from the local community to the State. The people of the county through their own county officials will continue to determine how much they will spend both for outdoor relief in caring for poor families in their own homes and for indoor relief in an almshouse, if they decide to have one.

In the Commission's draft of the proposed Act to codify the poor laws, we have made special provision to avoid disturbing the existing county unit poor districts†. Exceptions were also made to avoid changes at present in any counties of the First, Second and Third Classes and in Carbon in the Sixth Class which has a mixed poor district including in its territory a portion of one of the Third Class counties. We think an improvement could be made in the present poor district plan of some of the counties concerned, but these exceptions are made now, because they present conditions which ought to be made the subject of further study in co-operation with those interested. In these larger counties the other duties of the County Commissioners make it impracticable for them to administer the poor laws as they now do in some of the smaller counties. While the general principles in the Code recommended by the Commission hold with respect to these counties, a method will have to be worked out to meet the conditions found in their present systems.

Among the more important changes that would result from the enactment of the Code as submitted are the following.

1—Four hundred and fifty-nine local poor districts in 19 counties would be abolished. This includes four City, and seven Mixed Poor Districts, and 334 Township and 114 Borough Poor Districts and applies to the following counties:

Armstrong, Cameron, Center, Clinton, Columbia, Fulton, Juniata, \*Lawrence, Lycoming, \*Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Union, Wayne, and Wyoming.

2—In place of these 459 small districts, 19 County Poor Districts, to be administered by County Commissioners acting as Directors of the Poor, would be established. This plan, now in successful operation in 15 counties of about the same size, avoids the need for new and separate county poor boards.

3—Twenty-nine (29) local almshouses would be abolished, or converted into county institutions, in 19 counties. These include four City and seven Mixed District almshouses, eight belonging to Township Districts and 10 maintained by Boroughs.

4—County almshouses can be established in the 19 counties named if desired, or they may create joint poor districts

†See Chapter I, Art. I, Sec. 2 to Sec. 8, and Chapter II, Art. I, Sec. 200 and Sec. 202, page 46 and 48. See also Table 6, page 24.

\*Lawrence and Monroe Counties have recently voted to abolish their local poor districts in favor of the county unit system.

with an adjoining county and jointly erect and maintain an almshouse for their common use. They may also make some other provision for their dependents needing indoor care and thus continue, as seven of these counties are now doing, without almshouses. In any case the legal authority is provided for a county almshouse when one is wanted.

5—The authority of Justices of the Peace to grant orders of relief is withdrawn and repealed thus leaving the Directors of the Poor in all counties free and responsible to make their own investigations and decisions in poor relief matters.

6—The restriction now applying to many poor districts that **outdoor** relief may not be given to those refusing to go to the almshouse is removed so that Directors of the Poor may grant such aid to needy families in their homes as, in their judgement, the circumstances require.

7—Authority is given to Directors of the Poor to appoint, in addition to the staff for the almshouse or county home, "an attorney, a trained welfare worker and all other necessary employees and assistants."

8—Directors of the Poor are declared to be county officers in districts co-extensive with the county, and as such are subject to all the general laws relating to county officers.

9—Four classes of poor districts are created on the basis of population, thus providing a convenient way of referring to them.

10—Special provision is made to enable two or more counties to establish joint poor districts with a common almshouse.

11—Obsolete statutes—some of them dating back to colonial days—have been omitted, conflicting enactments have been harmonized, and some Acts have been modified to meet present day conditions.

This report is not presented as ideal or final. It is, we believe, merely a beginning in the right direction. While urging the county unit system, we recognize that public relief work in some of the counties now on that basis has not always been all that could be desired. We know also that some smaller districts have done good work considering the limitations under which they operate. Undoubtedly the overseers in local districts, equally with the directors of county boards, desire to give the best public service that they can. It is to the legal and administrative aspects of the question, rather than to individual officials, that we direct attention. We have not gone fully into questions regarding the quality and kind of outdoor relief given in all the various types of poor districts. It has not been practicable for the Commission to make the necessary investigations in order to determine the outdoor relief policy of all the districts. We do know that there are wide differences in practice. For example, the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, City Departments of Welfare, do not give outdoor relief as such. They indicate a preference for private

Commission's  
report and  
recommendations  
not ideal  
or final.



philanthropy which supports many social agencies and institutions in both cities. On the other hand, in many poor districts where public outdoor relief is given there are few, if any, private family relief agencies or child caring organizations. Again outdoor relief is given by some poor districts that are well supplied with private charitable agencies. We have had to leave untouched the question of the relationship that should exist between public and private relief agencies. Similarly, we have not been able to go into many other questions that might properly have been considered as a part of our task. As a Children's Commission was created by an Act of Assembly in 1923, to report especially on laws relating to children, we have not considered such statutes except as incidental to the poor laws.

Draft of a  
proposed act.

We have tried to block out the main divisions of a general poor relief code in such form as to permit of modification and extension by amendments from time to time as experience shows to be desirable. Existing enactments have been disturbed as little as possible. Many of them have been incorporated in the proposed code—sometimes with slight modifications to eliminate conflicting provisions, or to harmonize them with new sections. Most poor districts in the State are already subject, to some degree, to laws that have many things in common. The language of the various acts, especially with reference to administrative duties and responsibilities is often quite similar. Accompanying this report, as an appendix, we submit our recommendations in the form of a draft of a bill for introduction in the General Assembly, to be known as the "General Poor Relief Act of 1925."

Directory and  
map of Poor  
Districts.

For its own use, the Commission found it necessary to have a complete and accurate directory of all the poor districts in the State. One did not exist and very little of the data needed to compile such a directory was to be found. After the expenditure of much time and effort, we succeeded in collecting the necessary information both in regard to the poor districts and the almshouses. Believing that this would be of interest and value to the General Assembly in considering our proposed Act and also that it ought to be preserved, we have included it as Exhibit A in our Report, pages 31 to 40.

We have also prepared a map with explanatory notes which we present herewith as Exhibit B, page 41.

Appreciation  
for help  
received.

Special mention should be made of Mr. James N. Moore, Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, and Mr. John H. Fertig, Assistant Director, and their staff for their competent and indispensable help in making available necessary legal data. Directors of the Poor, County Commissioners and solicitors of poor districts have given important help. The Department of Welfare has co-operated in collecting and verifying data. We are also under obligations for help received from many other sources in collecting information for this report.

# EXHIBIT A

## POOR DISTRICTS OF PENNSYLVANIA

Classified by Counties including County and City Homes and Almshouses,  
and District, Township or Borough Homes and Almshouses

### ADAMS COUNTY

#### *County Poor District*

1. Directors of the Poor and House of Employment of Adams County.
  - a. Adams County Home, Gettysburg, Pa.

### ALLEGHENY COUNTY

#### *County and Municipal Government Poor Districts*

2. Allegheny County Directors of the Poor, Court House, Pittsburgh.
  - a. Allegheny County Home and Hospital, Woodville, Pa.
3. Department of Welfare of City of Pittsburgh, City Hall, Pittsburgh.
  - a. Pittsburgh City Home and Hospital, Mayview, Pa.

### ARMSTRONG COUNTY

#### *Township and Borough Poor Districts*

4. Apollo Borough.
5. Applewold Borough.
6. Atwood Borough.
7. Bethel Township.
8. Boggs Township.
9. Brady's Bend Township.
10. Burrell Township.
  - \*582. Cadogan Borough.
11. Cowanshannock Township.
12. Dayton Borough.
13. East Franklin Township.
14. Elderton Borough.
15. Ford City Borough.
  - \*583. Ford Cliff Borough.
16. Freeport Borough.
17. Gilpin Township.
18. Hovey Township.
19. Johnetta Borough.
20. Kiskiminetas Township.
21. Kittanning Borough.
  - a. Kittanning Poor House.
22. Kittanning Township.
23. Leechburg Borough.
24. Madison Township.
  - a. Madison Poor House, (closed) Widnoon.
25. Mahoning Township.
26. Manor Township.
  - a. Manor Township Poor Home, Ford City, Pa.

27. Manorville Borough.
28. North Buffalo Township.
29. Parker City Borough.
30. Parks Township.
31. Perry Township.
32. Pine Township.
33. Plumcreek Township.
34. Rayburn Township.
35. Redbank Township.
36. Rural Valley Borough.
37. South Bend Township.
38. South Bethlehem Borough.
39. South Buffalo Township.
40. Sugarcreek Township.
41. Valley Township.
42. Washington Township.
43. Wayne Township.
44. West Franklin Township.
45. West Kittanning Borough.
46. Worthington Borough.

### BEAVER COUNTY

#### *County Poor District*

47. Beaver County Commissioners.
  - a. Beaver County Almshouse, Monaca P. O., Pa.

### BEDFORD COUNTY

#### *County Poor District*

48. Bedford County Directors of the Poor.
  - a. Bedford County Almshouse, R. F. D., No. 3, Bedford, Pa.

### BERKS COUNTY

#### *County Poor District*

49. The Directors of the Poor and House of Employment for the County of Berks.
  - a. Berks County Almshouse, Shilington, Pa.

### BLAIR COUNTY

#### *County Poor District*

50. Blair County Directors of the Poor.
  - a. Blair County Home, Hollidaysburg, Pa.

### BRADFORD COUNTY

#### *County Poor District*

51. Bradford County Commissioners.
  - a. Bradford County Home, Burlington, Pa.

\*See page 40.

## BUCKS COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

52. Directors of the Poor and House of Employment for Bucks County.  
a. Bucks County Home, R. F. D., Doylestown, Pa.

## BUTLER COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

53. Butler County Commissioners.  
a. Butler County Home, R. F. D., Butler, Pa.

## CAMBRIA COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

54. Cambria County Directors of the Poor.  
a. Cambria County Home, Ebensburg, Pa.

## CAMERON COUNTY

### *Township and Borough Poor Districts*

55. Driftwood Borough.  
56. Emporium Borough.  
57. Gibson Township.  
58. Grove Township.  
59. Lumber Township.  
60. Portage Township.  
61. Shippen Township.

## CARBON COUNTY

### *Mixed, Township and Borough Poor Districts*

62. Middle Coal Field Poor District, including portions of Luzerne County and of Carbon County as follows:

From Luzerne County,  
Township of Foster.  
Borough of Freeland.  
Township of Hazle  
City of Hazleton.  
Borough of Jeddo.  
Borough of West Hazleton.

From Carbon County,  
Township of Banks  
Beaver Meadow Borough.  
Borough of East Mauch Chunk.  
Borough of Lansford.  
Lausanne Township.  
Township of Lehigh.  
Borough of Mauch Chunk.  
Mauch Chunk Township.  
Borough of Summit Hill.  
Borough of Weatherley.

- a. Middle Coal Field Almshouse, Weatherley, Pa.

63. Bowmanstown Borough.  
64. East Penn Township.  
65. East Side Borough.  
66. Franklin Township.  
67. Kidder Township.  
68. Lehighon Borough.  
69. Lower Towamensing Township.  
70. Mahoning Township.  
71. Packer Township.  
72. Palmerton Borough.  
73. Parryville Borough.  
74. Penn Forest Township.  
75. Towamensing Township.  
76. Weissport Borough.

## CENTER COUNTY

### *Township and Borough Poor Districts*

77. Bellefonte Borough.  
a. Bellefonte Borough Poor House, Bellefonte, Pa.  
78. Benner Township.  
79. Boggs Township.  
80. Burnside Township.  
81. Centre Hall Borough.  
82. College Township.  
83. Curtin Township.  
84. Ferguson Township.  
85. Gregg Township.  
86. Haines Township.  
87. Halfmoon Township.  
88. Harris Township.  
89. Howard Borough.  
90. Howard Township.  
91. Huston Township.  
92. Liberty Township.  
93. Marion Township.  
94. Miles Township.  
95. Milesburg Borough.  
96. Millheim Borough.  
97. Patton Township.  
98. Penn Township.  
99. Philipsburg Borough.  
a. Philipsburg Borough Home, Philipsburg, Pa.  
100. Potter Township.  
101. Rush Township.  
a. Rush Township Home, Philipsburg, Pa.  
102. Snow Shoe Borough.  
103. Snow Shoe Township.  
104. South Philipsburg Borough.  
105. Spring Township.  
a. Spring Township Home, Axemann, Bellefonte, Pa.  
106. State College Borough.  
107. Taylor Township.  
108. Union Township.  
109. Unionville Borough.  
110. Walker Township.  
111. Worth Township.

## CHESTER COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

112. Chester County Directors of the Poor.  
a. Chester County Home, Embreeville, Pa.

## CLARION COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

113. Clarion County Commissioners.  
a. Clarion County Home, Sligo, Pa.

## CLEARFIELD COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

114. Clearfield County Commissioners.  
a. Clearfield County Home, Clearfield, Pa.

## CLINTON COUNTY

### *City, Township and Borough Poor Districts*

115. Allison Township.  
116. Avis Borough.  
117. Bald Eagle Township.  
118. Beech Creek Borough.  
119. Beech Creek Township.  
120. Castanea Township.  
121. Chapman Township.  
122. Colebrook Township.  
123. Crawford Township.  
124. Dunnstable Township.  
125. East Keating Township.  
126. Flemington Borough.  
127. Gallagher Township.  
128. Greene Township.  
129. Grugan Township.  
130. Lamar Township.  
131. Leidy Township.  
132. Lock Haven City.  
a. Lock Haven City Home, Lock Haven, Pa.  
133. Logan Township.  
134. Loganton Borough.  
135. Mill Hall Borough.  
136. Noyes Township.  
137. Pine Creek Township.  
138. Porter Township.  
139. Renovo Borough.  
140. South Renovo Borough.  
141. Wayne Township.  
142. West Keating Township.  
143. Woodward Township.

## COLUMBIA COUNTY

### *Mixed, Township and Borough Poor Districts*

144. Beaver Township.  
145. Benton Borough.  
146. Benton Township.  
147. Berwick Borough.

148. Bloom Poor District including.  
Bloomsburg Town  
Greenwood Township  
Millville Borough.  
Scott Township.  
Sugarloaf Township.  
a. Bloom Almshouse, Bloomsburg, Pa.  
149. Briar Creek Borough.  
150. Briar Creek Township.  
151. Catawissa Borough.  
152. Catawissa Township.  
153. Center Township.  
154. Centralia Borough and Conyngham Township.  
a. Poor District Almshouse, Centralia, Pa.  
155. Cleveland Township.  
156. Fishing Creek Township.  
157. Franklin Township.  
158. Hemlock Township.  
159. Jackson Township.  
160. Locust Township.  
161. Madison Township.  
a. Madison Township Home (closed) Jerseytown, Pa.  
162. Main Township.  
163. Mifflin Township.  
164. Montour Township.  
165. Mount Pleasant Township.  
166. Orange Township.  
167. Orangeville Borough.  
168. Pine Township.  
169. Roaring Creek Township.  
170. Stillwater Borough.

## CRAWFORD COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

171. Crawford County Commissioners.  
a. Crawford County Home, Saegertown, Pa.

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

172. Directors of the Poor and House of Employment of Cumberland Co.  
a. Cumberland County Almshouse, R. F. D., Carlisle, Pa.

## DAUPHIN COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

173. Dauphin County Directors of the Poor.  
a. Dauphin County Home R. D., No. 1, Harrisburg, Pa.



## DELAWARE COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

174. Delaware County Directors of the Poor and of the House of employment for the County of Delaware.  
a. Delaware County Home, Lima, Pa.

## ELK COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

175. Elk County Commissioners.  
a. Elk County Home, St. Mary's, Pa.

## ERIE COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

176. Directors of the Poor of Erie County.  
a. Erie County Home, R. F. D., Erie, Pa.

## FAYETTE COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

177. Directors of the Poor and the House of Employment of Fayette County.  
a. Fayette County Home, R. F. D., Uniontown, Pa.

## FOREST COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

178. Forest County Commissioners.  
a. Forest County Home, Tionesta, Pa.

## FRANKLIN COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

179. Directors of the Poor of Franklin County.  
a. Franklin County Home, Chambersburg, R. F. D., Pa.

## FULTON COUNTY

### *Township and Borough Poor Districts*

180. Ayr Township.  
181. Belfast Township.  
182. Bethel Township.  
183. Brush Creek Township.  
184. Dublin Township.  
185. Licking Creek Township.  
186. McConnellsburg Borough.  
187. Taylor Township.  
188. Thompson Township.  
189. Todd Township.  
190. Union Township.  
191. Wells Township.

## GREENE COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

192. Directors of the Poor of Greene County.  
a. Greene County Almshouse, Waynesburg, Pa.

## HUNTINGDON COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

193. Directors of the Poor of Huntingdon County.  
a. Huntingdon County Almshouse, Shirleysburg, Pa.

## INDIANA COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

194. Indiana County Commissioners.  
a. Indiana County Home, Indiana, Pa.

## JEFFERSON COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

195. Jefferson County Commissioners.  
a. Jefferson County Home, Brookville, Pa.

## (1)JUNIATA COUNTY

### *Township and Borough Poor Districts*

196. Beale Township.  
197. Delaware Township.  
198. Fayette Township.  
199. Fermanagh Township.  
200. Greenwood Township.  
201. Lack Township.  
202. Mifflin Borough.  
203. Mifflintown Borough.  
204. Milford Township.  
205. Monroe Township.  
206. Port Royal Borough.  
207. Spruce Hill Township.  
208. Susquehanna Township.  
209. Thompsonstown Borough.  
210. Turbett Township.  
211. Tuscarora Township.  
212. Walker Township.

(1)Juniata County: The Asylum for the Poor in the County of Juniata was provided for in the Act of March 23, 1865, P. L. 665, conditioned on a vote of acceptance by the local Poor Districts in the County. The individual Districts accepting were to become part of the new Poor District while those rejecting were to remain under the township and borough system. While the preamble of the Act of April 8, 1867, P. L. 910, indicates that the borough of Patterson, now Mifflin, and the townships of Milford, Delaware and Lack did accept this Act, we have not been able to learn that this District now exists and maintains a Poor Asylum.



## LACKAWANNA COUNTY

### *Mixed, City, Township and Borough Poor Districts*

213. Blakely Poor District including  
Archbald Borough.  
Blakely Borough.  
Dickson City Borough.  
Jermyn Borough—Third Ward  
and one-half of Second Ward.  
Olyphant Borough.  
Throop Borough.  
Winton Borough.  
a. Blakely Poor House, Olyphant,  
Pa.
214. Carbondale City Poor District.  
a. Carbondale City Almshouse,  
Carbondale, Pa.
215. Carbondale Township.  
216. Clark's Green Borough.  
217. Clifton Township.  
218. Covington Township.  
219. Elmhurst Borough.  
220. Fell Township.  
221. Gouldsboro Borough (no election, no  
Poor Directors).  
222. Jefferson Township.  
223. Jenkins Township, Pittston City &  
Pittston Township Poor District  
including  
From Lackawanna County,  
Lackawanna Township.  
Moosic Borough.  
Old Forge Borough.  
Ransom Township.  
Scranton City—22nd Ward.  
Taylor Borough.  
From Luzerne County,  
Avoca Borough.  
Dupont Borough.  
Duryea Borough.  
Hughestown Borough.  
Jenkins Township.  
Lafin Borough.  
Pittston City.  
Pittston Township.  
Yatesville Borough.  
a. Ransom Poor House, Ransom,  
Pa.
224. Jermyn Borough—First Ward and  
one-half of Second Ward.
225. Lakeview Poor District including  
Abington Township.  
Benton Township.  
Clark's Summit Borough.  
Dalton Borough.  
Glenburn Borough.  
Greenfield Township.  
La Plume Borough.  
Newton Township.  
North Abington Township.  
Scott Township.

South Abington Township.

West Abington Township.

- a. Lakeview Poor House, Clark's  
Summit, Pa.
226. Lehigh Township.  
227. Madison Township.  
228. Mayfield Borough.  
229. Moscow Borough.  
230. Roaring Brook Township.  
231. Scranton City Poor District includ-  
ing  
Borough of Dunmore.  
Scranton City (except the 22nd  
Ward formerly a part of Lack-  
awanna Township.)  
a. Hillside Home, Clark's Summit,  
Pa.
232. Spring Brook Township.  
233. Vandling Borough.

## LANCASTER COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

234. Lancaster County Directors of the  
Poor.  
a. Lancaster County Home, Lancas-  
ter, Pa.

## (2)LAWRENCE COUNTY

### *City, Township and Borough Poor Districts*

235. Bessemer Borough.  
236. Big Beaver Township.  
237. Ellwood City Borough.  
238. Enon Valley Borough.  
239. Hickory Township.  
240. Little Beaver Township.  
241. Mahoning Township.  
242. Neshannock Township.  
243. New Castle City.  
a. City of New Castle Poor House,  
New Castle, Pa.
244. New Wilmington Borough.  
245. North Beaver Township.  
246. Perry Township.  
247. Plain Grove Township.  
248. Pulaski Township.  
249. Scott Township.  
250. Shenango Township.  
251. Slippery Rock Township.  
252. South New Castle Borough.  
253. Taylor Township.  
254. Union Township.  
255. Volant Borough.  
256. Wampum Borough.  
257. Washington Township.  
258. Wayne Township.  
259. Wilmington Township.

(2)Lawrence County has voted to abolish the  
township and borough poor districts and to adopt  
the county unit poor district system.

## LEBANON COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

260. Lebanon County Directors of the Poor.  
a. Lebanon County Almshouse,  
Lebanon, Pa.

## LEHIGH COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

261. Lehigh County Directors of the Poor.  
a. Lehigh County Almshouse,  
Wescosville, Pa.

## LUZERNE COUNTY

### *Mixed, Township and Borough Poor Districts*

Middle Coal Field District includes  
a portion of Luzerne County (For  
details see Carbon County)

Jenkins Township, Pittston City and  
Pittston Township Poor District  
includes a portion of Luzerne  
County (For details see Lackawan-  
na County)

### *Additional Poor Districts as follows*

262. Bear Creek Township.  
263. Black Creek Township.  
264. Buck Township. (no Poor Direc-  
tors—no election)  
265. Butler Township.  
266. Central Poor District includes  
Ashley Borough.  
Courtdale Borough.  
Edwardsville Borough.  
Forty-Fort Borough.  
Hanover Township.  
Kingston Borough.  
Kingston Township.  
Larksville Borough.  
Laurel Run Borough.  
Luzerne Borough.  
Miners Mills Borough.  
Nanticoke Borough.  
Newport Township.  
Parsons Borough.  
Plains Township.  
Plymouth Borough.  
Plymouth Township.  
Pringle Borough.  
Sugar Notch Borough.  
Swoyersville Borough.  
Warrior Run Borough.  
West Wyoming Borough.  
Wilkes-Barre City.  
Wilkes-Barre Township.  
Wyoming Borough.  
a. Central Poor District Home,  
Retreat, Pa.  
267. Conyngham Borough.  
268. Conyngham Township.

269. Dallas Borough (no Poor Directors,  
no election).  
270. Dallas Township (no Poor Directors,  
no election).  
271. Dennison Township.  
272. Dorrance Township.  
273. Exeter Borough.  
274. Exeter Township.  
275. Fairmount Township.  
276. Fairview Township (no Poor Direc-  
tors—no election).  
277. Franklin Township (no Poor Direc-  
tors—no election).  
278. Hollenback Township.  
279. Hunlock Township.  
280. Huntington Township.  
281. Jackson Township.  
282. Lake Township.  
283. Lehman Township.  
284. Nescopeck Township.  
285. Nescopeck Borough.  
286. New Columbus Borough.  
287. Nuangola Borough (no Poor Direc-  
tors—no election).  
288. Ross Township.  
289. Salem Township.  
290. Shickshinny Borough.  
291. Slocum Township. (no Poor Direc-  
tors)  
292. Sugar Loaf Township.  
293. Union Township.  
294. West Pittston Borough.  
295. White Haven Borough.  
296. Wright Township (no Poor Direc-  
tors—no election).

## LYCOMING COUNTY

### *City, Township and Borough Poor Districts*

297. Anthony Township.  
298. Armstrong Township.  
299. Bastress Township.  
300. Brady Township.  
301. Brown Township.  
302. Cascade Township.  
303. Clinton Township.  
304. Cogan House Township.  
305. Cummings Township.  
306. DuBoistown Borough.  
307. Eldred Township.  
308. Fairfield Township.  
309. Franklin Township.  
310. Gamble Township.  
311. Hepburn Township.  
312. Hughesville Borough.  
313. Jackson Township.  
314. Jersey Shore Borough.  
315. Jordan Township.  
316. Lewis Township.  
317. Limestone Township.  
318. Loyalsock Township.  
319. Lycoming Township.  
320. McHenry Township.  
321. McIntyre Township.

322. McNett Township.
323. Mifflin Township.
324. Mill Creek Township .
325. Montgomery Borough.
326. Montoursville Borough.
327. Moreland Township.
328. Muncy Borough.
329. Muncy Creek Township.
330. Muncy Township.
331. Nippenose Township.
332. Old Lycoming Township.
333. Penn Township.
334. Platt Township.
335. Picture Rocks Borough.
336. Pine Township.
337. Plunkett's Creek Township.
338. Porter Township.
339. Salladasburg Borough.
340. Shrewsbury Township.
341. South Williamsport Borough.
342. Susquehanna Township.
343. Upper Fairfield Township.
344. Washington Township.
345. Watson Township.
346. City of Williamsport Poor District.  
a. The City Home, Williamsport,  
Pa.
347. Wolf Township.
348. Woodward Township.

### **McKEAN COUNTY**

*County and Municipal Government Poor Districts*

349. McKean County Commissioners.  
a. McKean County Home, Smethport, Pa.
350. City of Bradford Poor District.  
a. City Poor Farm, Degolia, Pa.

### **MERCER COUNTY**

*County Poor District*

351. Mercer County Directors of the Poor.  
a. Mercer County Home and House of Employment, Mercer, Pa.

### **MIFFLIN COUNTY**

*County Poor District*

352. Mifflin County Directors of the Poor  
a. Mifflin County Home, Lewistown, Pa.

### **(3)MONROE COUNTY**

*Township and Borough Poor Districts*

353. Barrett Township.
354. Chestnuthill Township.
355. Coolbaugh Township.
356. Delaware Water Gap Borough.
357. East Stroudsburg Borough.  
a. East Stroudsburg Poor House,  
East Stroudsburg, Pa.

(3) Monroe County has voted to abolish the township and borough poor districts and to adopt the county unit poor district system.

358. Eldred Township.
359. Hamilton Township.
360. Jackson Township.
361. Middle Smithfield Township.  
a. Middle Smithfield Township,  
Home for Indigents.
362. Paradise Township.
363. Pocono Township.
364. Polk Township.
365. Price Township.
366. Ross Township.
367. Smithfield Township.
368. Stroud Township.
369. Stroudsburg Borough.  
a. Stroudsburg Poor House, Stroudsburg, Pa.
370. Tobyhanna Township.
371. Tunkhannock Township.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

*County Poor District*

372. Directors of the Poor and of the House of Employment for the County of Montgomery.  
a. Montgomery County Home, Royersford, Pa.

### **(4)MONTOUR COUNTY**

*Mixed, Township and Borough Poor Districts*

373. Anthony Township.
374. Cooper Township.
375. Danville Borough and Mahoning Township Poor District.  
a. Danville and Mahoning Poor House, Danville, Pa., R. D.
376. Derry Township.
377. Liberty Township.  
a. Liberty Township Poor Farm, Mooresburg, Pa.
378. Limestone Township.
379. Mayberry Township.
380. Valley Township.  
a. Valley Township Poor House, Mansdale, Pa.
381. Washingtonville Borough.  
(no officers).
382. West Hemlock Township.

### **NORTHAMPTON COUNTY**

*County Poor District*

383. Northampton County Directors of the Poor.  
a. Northampton County Home, Nazareth, Pa.

(4) According to Section 9 of the Act of April 28, 1870, P. L. 1193, the Burgess and Town Council of Washingtonville Borough "shall have the care of the poor of said borough, and all the powers and duties of overseers of the poor shall be exercised and performed by them".



## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

*Mixed, City, Township and Borough  
Poor Districts*

384. Coal Township and Shamokin  
Borough Poor District.
  - a. Shamokin-Coal Township Poor  
House, Shamokin, Pa.
385. Delaware Township.
386. East Cameron Township.
387. East Chillisquaque Township.
388. Gearhart Township.
389. Herndon Borough.
390. Jackson Township.
391. Jordon Township.
392. Kulpmont Borough.
393. Lewis Township.
394. Little Mahanoy Township.
395. Lower Augusta Township.
396. Lower Mahanoy Township.
397. McEwensville Borough.
398. Marion Heights Borough.
399. Milton Borough Poor District.
  - a. Milton Borough Almshouse,  
Milton, Pa.
400. Mount Carmel Borough Poor  
District.
  - a. Mount Carmel Poor House,  
Deibler's Station, Crowl P. O.,  
Pa.
401. Mount Carmel Township.
402. Northumberland Borough.
  - a. Northumberland Borough Alms-  
house (closed), Northumber-  
land, Pa.
403. Point Township.
404. Ralpho Township.
405. Riverside Borough.
406. Rockefeller Township.
407. Rush Township.
408. Shamokin Township.
409. Snyderstown Borough.
410. Sunbury City Poor District.
  - a. Sunbury Poor House, Sunbury,  
Pa.
411. Turbotville Borough.
412. Turbotville Township.
413. Upper Augusta Township.
414. Upper Mahanoy Township.
415. Washington Township.
416. Watsontown Borough.
417. West Cameron Township.
418. West Chillisquaque Township.
419. Zerbe Township Poor District.
  - a. Zerbe Township Poor House,  
Trevorton, Pa.

## PERRY COUNTY

*County Poor District*

420. Perry County Directors of the Poor.
  - a. Perry County Almshouse, Loys-  
ville, Pa.

## PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

*Municipal Government and City  
Ward Districts Covering Territory of  
Former Townships and Boroughs.*

421. Guardians for the Relief and Em-  
ployment of the Poor of the Town-  
ship of Bristol—comprising greater  
part of 42nd Ward.
422. Byberry Poor District—first division  
of 35th Ward.
423. Managers for the Relief and Em-  
ployment of the Poor of the Town-  
ship of Germantown — includes  
greater part of the 22nd Ward.
  - a. Germantown Almshouse, German-  
town, Philadelphia, Pa.
424. Moreland Township Poor District—  
comprises part of 35th Ward.
425. Directors of the Poor and of the  
House of Employment for the  
Townships of Oxford and Lower  
Dublin—includes 23rd, 35th and  
41st Wards except portions in the  
Roxborough, Byberry and More-  
land Township Poor Districts.
  - a. Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor  
House, Holmesburg, Philadel-  
phia, Pa.
426. Roxborough Poor District — Com-  
prises sections of 22nd Ward not  
included in Germantown Poor Dis-  
trict, and portions of the 23rd, 35th  
and 41st Wards not included in the  
Oxford and Lower Dublin, Byber-  
ry and Moreland Poor Districts,  
and portion of 42nd Ward not  
included in Bristol Township Poor  
District.
  - a. Roxborough Poor House, Shaw-  
mont, Philadelphia.
427. Department of Public Welfare, City  
Hall, Philadelphia—includes all of  
the forty-eight Wards of the City  
and County of Philadelphia except  
as noted above.
  - a. Philadelphia Home for the Indi-  
gent, Holmesburg Junction, Pa.

## PIKE COUNTY

*Township and Borough Poor Districts*

428. Blooming Grove Township.
429. Delaware Township.
430. Dingman Township.
431. Green Township.
432. Lackawaxen Township.
433. Lehman Township.
434. Matamoras Borough.
435. Milford Borough.
436. Milford Township.
437. Palmyra Township.
438. Porter Township.
439. Shohola Township.
440. Westfall Township.

## POTTER COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

441. Potter County Commissioners.  
a. Potter County Home and Hospital  
Coudersport, Pa.

## SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

442. Schuylkill County Directors of the  
Poor and of the House of Employ-  
ment.  
a. Schuylkill County Home, Schuyl-  
kill Haven, Pa.

## SNYDER COUNTY

### *Township and Borough Poor Districts*

443. Adams Township.  
444. Beavertown Borough.  
445. Beaver Township.  
446. Center Township.  
447. Chapman Township.  
448. Franklin Township.  
449. Freebury Borough.  
450. Jackson Township.  
451. Middlecreek Township.  
452. Middleburg Borough.  
453. Monroe Township.  
454. Penn Township.  
455. Perry Township.  
456. Selinsgrove Borough.  
a. Selinsgrove Borough Poor House,  
(closed) Selinsgrove, Pa.  
457. Spring Township.  
458. Union Township.  
459. Washington Township.  
460. West Beaver Township.  
461. West Perry Township.

## SOMERSET COUNTY

### *County Poor District*

462. Somerset County Directors of the  
Poor.  
a. Somerset County Home and Hos-  
pital, Somerset, Pa.

## SULLIVAN COUNTY

### *Township and Borough Poor Districts*

463. Cherry Township.  
464. Colley Township.  
465. Davidson Township.  
466. Dushore Borough.  
467. Eagles Mere Borough.  
468. Elkland Township.  
469. Forks Township.  
470. Forksville Borough.  
471. Fox Township.  
472. Hillsgrove Township.  
473. Laporte Borough.  
474. Laporte Township.  
475. Shrewsbury Township.

## SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

### *Mixed and Township and Borough Poor Districts*

476. Apolacon Township.  
477. Ararat Township.  
478. Auburn and Rush Township Poor  
Districts including  
Auburn Township.  
Forest Lake Township.  
Rush Township.  
Springville Township.  
a. Auburn and Rush Asylum, Rush,  
Pa.  
479. Bridgewater Township.  
480. Brooklyn Township.  
481. Choconut Township.  
482. Clifford Township.  
483. Dimick Township.  
484. Dundaff Borough.  
485. Forest City Borough Poor District.  
a. Forest City Borough Almshouse,  
Forest City, Pa.  
486. Franklin Township.  
487. Friendsville Borough.  
488. Gibson Township.  
489. Great Bend Borough.  
490. Great Bend Township.  
491. Hallstead Borough.  
492. Harmony Township.  
493. Harford Township.  
494. Herrick Township.  
495. Hop Bottom Borough.  
496. Jackson Township.  
497. Jessup Township.  
498. Lanesboro Borough.  
499. Lathrop Township.  
500. Lenox Township.  
501. Liberty Township.  
502. Little Meadows Borough.  
503. Middletown Township.  
504. Montrose Borough Poor District.  
a. Montrose Poor Asylum, Montrose,  
Pa.  
505. New Milford Borough.  
506. New Milford Township Poor Dis-  
trict.  
a. New Milford Poor Asylum, New  
Milford, Pa.  
507. Silver Lake Township.  
508. Susquehanna Depot and Oakland  
Township Poor District including  
Oakland Borough.  
Oakland Township.  
Susquehanna Depot Borough.  
a. Susquehanna Depot and Oakland  
Township Poor Asylum, Sus-  
quehanna, Pa.  
509. Thompson Borough.  
510. Thompson Township.  
511. Uniondale Borough.



## **TIOGA COUNTY**

### *County Poor District*

512. Tioga County Commissioners.  
a. Tioga County Home, Wellsboro,  
Pa.

## **UNION COUNTY**

### *Township and Borough Poor Districts*

513. Buffalo Township.  
514. East Buffalo Township.  
515. Gregg Township.  
516. Hartley Township.  
517. Hartleton Borough.  
518. Kelley Township.  
519. Lewis Township.  
520. Lewisburg Borough.  
a. Boarding Home for Poor, Lewis-  
burg, Pa.  
521. Limestone Township.  
522. Mifflinburg Borough.  
523. New Berlin Borough.  
524. Union Township.  
525. West Buffalo Township.  
526. White Deer Township.

## **VENANGO COUNTY**

### *County Poor District*

527. Venango County Commissioners.  
a. Venango County Almshouse,  
Franklin, Pa.

## **(5) WARREN COUNTY**

### *County Poor District*

528. Warren County Commissioners.  
a. Rouse Home and Hospital,  
Youngsville, Pa.

## **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

### *County Poor District*

529. Washington County Directors of the  
Poor.  
a. Washington County Home,  
Washington, Pa.

## **WAYNE COUNTY**

### *Mixed, Township and Borough Poor Districts*

530. Berlin Township.  
531. Bethany Borough.  
532. Buckingham Township.  
533. Canaan Township.  
534. Cherry Ridge Township.  
535. Clinton Township.  
536. Damascus Township.  
537. Dreher Township.  
538. Dyberry Township.  
539. Hawley Township.

540. Honesdale Borough and Texas  
Township Poor District.  
a. Honesdale and Texas Poor House,  
Honesdale, Pa.

541. Lake Township.  
542. Lebanon Township.  
543. Lehigh Township.  
544. Manchester Township.  
545. Mount Pleasant Township.  
546. Oregon Township.  
547. Palmyra Township.  
548. Paupack Township.  
549. Preston Township.  
550. Prompton Borough.  
551. Salem Township.  
552. Scott Township.  
553. South Canaan Township.  
554. Starrucca Borough.  
555. Sterling Township.  
556. Waymart Borough.

## **WESTMORELAND COUNTY**

### *County Poor District*

557. Directors of the Home for the  
Destitute of the County of West-  
moreland.  
a. Westmoreland County Home for  
the Destitute, Greensburg, Pa.

## **WYOMING COUNTY**

### *Township and Borough Poor Districts*

558. Braintrim Township.  
559. Clinton Township.  
560. Eaton Township.  
561. Exeter Township.  
562. Factoryville Borough.  
563. Falls Township.  
564. Forkstown Township.  
565. Laceyville Borough.  
566. Lemon Township.  
567. Mehoopany Township.  
568. Meshoppen Borough.  
569. Meshoppen Township.  
570. Monroe Township.  
571. Nicholson Borough.  
572. Nicholson Township.  
573. North Branch Township.  
574. Northmoreland Township.  
575. Noxen Township.  
576. Overfield Township.  
577. Tunkhannock Borough.  
578. Tunkhannock Township.  
579. Washington Township.  
580. Windham Township.

## **YORK COUNTY**

### *County Poor District*

581. York County Directors of the Poor.  
a. York County Almshouse, York,  
Pa.

### *Addenda Armstrong County.*

582. Cadogan Borough.  
583. Ford Cliff Borough.

(5) This institution was originally given to Warren County by the Rouse Estate from which an annual income toward its maintenance is received.

# EXHIBIT B

County and one municipal government district in Allegheny County.

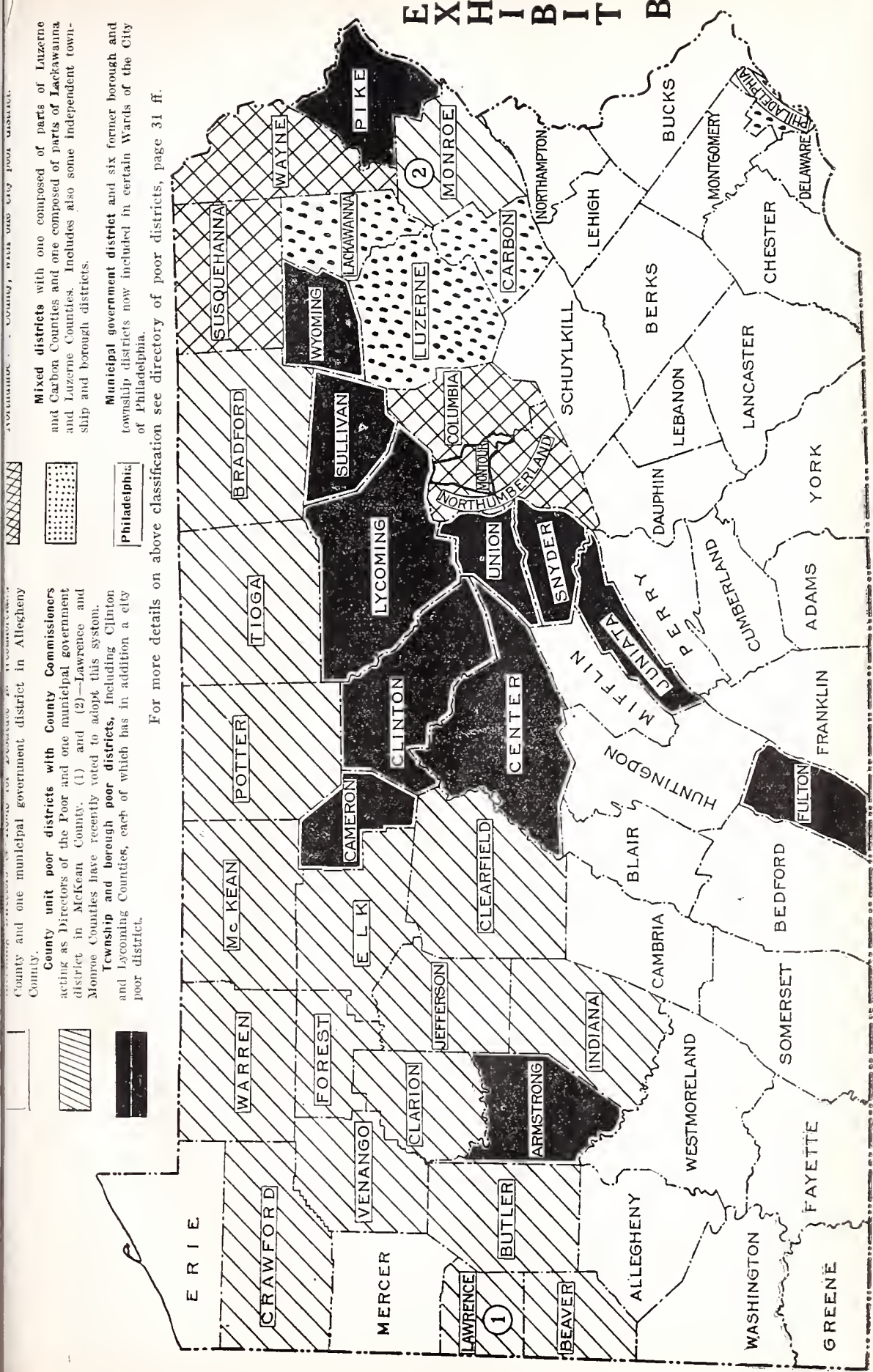
**County unit poor districts with County Commissioners** acting as Directors of the Poor and one municipal government district in McKean County. (1) and (2)—Lawrence and Monroe Counties have recently voted to adopt this system.

**Township and borough poor districts**, including Clinton and Lycoming Counties, each of which has in addition a city poor district.

**Mixed districts** with one composed of parts of Luzerne and Carbon Counties and one composed of parts of Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. Includes also some independent township and borough districts.

**Municipal government district** and six former borough and township districts now included in certain Wards of the City of Philadelphia.

For more details on above classification see directory of poor districts, page 31 ff.



# APPENDIX

## Report of Commission to Revise and Codify the Poor Laws of Pennsylvania

### THE GENERAL POOR RELIEF ACT OF 1925

### AN ACT

Concerning poor relief and the creation and government of poor districts and the administration of the same, and revising, amending, and consolidating and changing the law relating thereto.

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**DRAFT OF A PROPOSED ACT**  
**THE GENERAL POOR RELIEF ACT OF 1925**

**AN ACT**

Concerning poor relief and the creation and government of poor districts and the administration of the same, and revising, amending, consolidating and changing the law relating thereto.

**CHAPTER I.**

**Preliminary Provisions**

**ARTICLE I.**

**Sec. 1. NAME AND EFFECTIVE DATE.** Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That this act shall be known, and may be cited, as "The General Poor Relief Act of 1925". This act shall take effect on the first Monday of January, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six.

**Sec. 2. WHAT ACT DOES NOT INCLUDE.** This act does not include any provisions, and shall not be construed to repeal any acts, relating to—

- (a) The procedure for the collection of municipal claims by liens.
- (b) The amount and method of incurring or increasing bonded indebtedness.
- (c) Election officers and conduct of elections.
- (d) Care of the insane or feeble-minded, epileptic or habit cases.
- (e) Boards of Health.
- (f) Common schools.
- (g) Constables.
- (h) Justices of the Peace, except as to their authority to grant orders of poor relief which is hereby expressly withdrawn and repealed.
- (i) Validations of elections, bonds, ordinances, and acts of corporate officers.

**Sec. 3. CONTINUATION OF EXISTING LAWS.** The provisions of this act so far as they are the same as those of existing laws are intended as a continuation of such laws and not as new enactments. The repeal by this act of any Act of Assembly or part thereof shall not revive any act or part thereof heretofore repealed or superseded. The provisions of this act shall not affect any act done, liability incurred or right accrued or vested, or affect any suit or prosecution pending or to be instituted, to enforce

any right or penalty or punish any offense under the authority of such repealed laws. Any person holding office under any act of Assembly repealed by this act shall continue to hold such office until the expiration of the term thereof, subject to the conditions attached to such office prior to the passage of this act.

**Sec. 4. PROVISIONS SEVERABLE.** The provisions of this act shall be severable, and if any of the provisions shall be held to be unconstitutional such decision shall not affect the validity of any of the remaining provisions of this act.

**Sec. 5. REFERENCE TO PRIOR ACT BY TITLE.** Whenever, in this act, reference is made to any act by title, such reference shall also apply to and include any codification wherein the provisions of the act referred to are substantially re-enacted.

**Sec. 6. PRESERVATIONS OF EXISTING RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES.** Whenever the territory of any poor district is changed in extent, all liabilities, incurred rights, and all suits and prosecutions pending or to be instituted to enforce any right or penalty accrued, or punish any offense committed, prior to such change, shall continue with the same force and effect as if no such change had been made.

**Sec. 7. ACT NOT COMPLETE SYSTEM FOR POOR TAXES.** This act does not provide a complete system for the assessment and collection of poor taxes. All acts and parts of acts relating to poor taxes, in force prior to the passage of this act, which are not re-enacted or specifically or impliedly repealed by this act, shall remain in force in the same manner as prior to the passage of this act.

**Sec. 8. ACT SUPERSEDES AND PREVAILS OVER PREVIOUS ENACTMENTS FOUND INCONSISTENT OR INCOMPATIBLE.** The provisions of this act shall supersede and prevail over any previous enactments, ordinances, regulations and rules found to be inconsistent or incompatible herewith.

## ARTICLE II.

### Definitions

**Sec. 10. DEFINITIONS.** The following are defined within the naming of this act:—

(a) A poor person is one who is unable to maintain himself or those dependent upon him.

(b) Directors shall be taken to include and mean, unless obviously otherwise, directors of the poor, county commissioners acting as directors of the poor, guardians of the poor, directors of the home for the destitute, overseers, overseers of the poor, or any other public officer by whatever title designated, chargeable with the duty of maintenance of paupers or the granting of poor relief.

(c) District means and includes any political sub-division of the state operating as a separate unit or quasi-municipal corporation in caring for the poor.

(d) Almshouse shall include and mean the county home, poor house, home for the destitute or any other building or place, by whatever title designated, where poor persons are maintained at the public expense.

(e) A settlement of a person shall be his right under the provisions of this act to relief in any particular poor district.

(f) The word "may" shall be construed to be permissive.

(g) The masculine noun or pronoun shall include the feminine.

(h) Public charge shall mean a person to whom poor relief from public funds is necessary for his maintenance; a pauper.

## CHAPTER II.

### Creation and Administration of Poor Districts

#### ARTICLE I.

**Sec. 200.** EACH COUNTY MADE A DISTRICT WITH FOUR EXCEPTIONS. For the purpose of furnishing relief to poor persons, giving them employment, and carrying out the provisions of this act, each county of this Commonwealth is hereby created a district to be known as "\_\_\_\_\_ County Poor District". Provided, however,—

(a) The several poor districts within the County of Philadelphia shall remain as at present fixed and administered.

(b) Out of the County of Allegheny shall be excepted the City of Pittsburgh, which shall continue a separate poor district as at present.

(c) Out of the County of McKean shall be excepted the City of Bradford, which shall continue a separate poor district as at present.

(d) The Counties of Carbon, Luzerne and Lackawanna shall be excepted herefrom, so far as relates to the territorial sub-division thereof into districts.

**Sec. 201.** FOUR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS. Poor districts coterminous with counties having a population of 1,500,000 inhabitants and over shall constitute districts of the first class.

**Sec. 201.** Poor districts coterminous with counties having a population of 1,500,000 inhabitants and over shall constitute districts of the first class.

Poor districts coterminous with counties having a population of 800,000 and more, but less than 1,500,000 inhabitants, shall constitute districts of the second class.

Poor districts coterminous with counties having a population of 100,000 and more, but less than 800,000 inhabitants, shall constitute districts of the third class.

Poor districts coterminous with counties having a population of less than 100,000 inhabitants shall constitute districts of the fourth class.

**Sec. 202.** POOR DISTRICT SYSTEM PRESERVED IN EXCEPTED TERRITORY. In poor districts of the first and second classes and in the Counties of Carbon, Lackawanna and Luzerne, the number of directors, the manner of their election or appointment, and the administrative system of giving poor relief shall continue as now fixed by law.



## ARTICLE II.

### **Sec. 210. DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY OF OLD DISTRICT.**

Upon the taking effect of this act the title to all real and personal property, equipment and supplies now owned by the various township, borough, city, or other poor districts which have been abolished is disposed of as follows, to wit:

That of each township poor district is hereby transferred to and vested in the township in which located. The township commissioners in first-class townships and supervisors in second-class townships are hereby given the power and authority to sell the same and transfer the title thereto. The proceeds thereof, together with all other moneys of such districts, shall be used for township purposes.

That of each borough poor district is hereby transferred to and vested in the borough in which located. The council and burgess of such borough are hereby given the power and authority to sell the same and transfer the title thereto. The proceeds thereof, together with all other moneys of such district, shall be used for borough purposes.

That of each city poor district is hereby transferred to and vested in the city in which located. The council and mayor of such city are hereby given the power and authority to sell the same and transfer the title thereto. The proceeds thereof, together with all other moneys of such district, shall be used for city purposes.

That of each poor district other than those named above is hereby transferred to and vested in the constituent political units composing said district in proportion to the taxable valuation of real estate in said constituent units. The municipal authorities of said constituent units are hereby given the power and authority to sell the same and transfer the title thereto. The proceeds thereof, together with all other moneys of such district, shall be used for the purpose of such constituent units.

The directors of the poor of any district are hereby given the power and authority to take and use any such real estate, if adaptable to the care of the poor, either by agreement with the owners or by the exercise of the right of eminent domain as provided in sections 705 to 711 hereof.

The sales above authorized shall be made only under the direction and supervision of the court of common pleas of the proper county, and in accordance with the provisions of sections 703 and 704 hereof, so far as the same may be applicable, and the proceeds thereof distributed by said court.

(Sec. 3, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538, modified)

**Sec. 211. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.** The directors of the poor shall elect on the first Monday of January in each year, or as near thereto as convenient, the following officers to serve for one year, and fix their compensation; that is, a superintendent, a matron or matrons, a physician, and may appoint an attorney, trained welfare worker, and all other necessary employes and assistants, all of whom shall be subject to removal by the directors of the poor at any time. They may require bond with security in such amount as they deem proper from any officer or employe appointed.

(Sec. 4, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538).



**Sec. 212. COUNTY TREASURER TO BE TREASURER OF DISTRICT.** The treasurer of such county shall be treasurer of said poor district, shall receive all moneys belonging to the district, and pay out the same on warrants drawn by the directors of the poor. The accounts of the treasurer with the said district shall be audited by the county controller or county auditors of said county in accordance with the laws relating to accounts of county treasurers.

The directors of the poor shall require the county treasurer to give bond with sufficient surety in such amount as they shall determine requisite for the safe keeping and proper payment of all moneys that come into his hands on account of said district.

(Sec. 5, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538)

**Sec. 213. NOTICE TO OVERSEERS AND DIRECTORS.** As soon as the directors of the poor are prepared to accommodate the poor of said poor district they shall give notice of the same by personal notice upon each of the directors or overseers of the poor of each township, borough, city or other poor district within said county, and also by publication once a week for three weeks in two newspapers in said county.

(Sec. 6, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538)

**Sec. 214. REMOVAL OF POOR TO COUNTY HOME.** Immediately after notice that the directors of the poor are prepared to accommodate the poor of said district, it shall be the duty of the directors or overseers of the poor of each township, borough, city, or other poor district within said county to remove all poor persons entitled to relief to the poor house as designated by the directors of the poor, and deliver them to the custody of the superintendent and from and after such time no expense for help, assistance and maintenance of poor and destitute shall be incurred by such directors or overseers.

(Sec. 7, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538)

**Sec. 215. LOCAL POOR DISTRICTS ABOLISHED.** After delivery of the poor and destitute to the directors of the poor, as provided in Sec. 214, the various township, borough, city, or other poor districts within any such county are hereby abolished and the directors or overseers of the poor of such poor districts shall cease to act in such capacity, and said offices are hereby abolished, except so far as may be necessary to collect outstanding taxes, settle the accounts, pay the debts incurred and wind up the unfinished business transactions of such district.

(Sec. 8, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538)

**Sec. 216. DIRECTORS TO PROVIDE SUITABLE BUILDINGS.** Whenever in any poor district, no adequate site or suitable buildings are available for the care of the poor, or whenever the lands, buildings, furnishings and equipment for maintaining the poor in such poor district are inadequate, unsuitable or unsafe for the proper maintaining of the poor within such district, the directors of the poor are authorized to purchase

or acquire by right of eminent domain and take title in the name of the district such lands as to them may appear most eligible and suitable for the purpose of the erection thereon of proper, adequate and suitable buildings for the employment and support of the poor in such district. Any such purchase or acquisition shall be only with the approval of the court of common pleas.

After the purchase or acquisition of such lands the said directors of the poor or a majority of them are authorized to have prepared plans and specifications in accordance with existing law, and to cause the necessary buildings to be erected upon the lands according to said plans and specifications.

Before the said directors of the poor shall let any contract for the erection of said buildings according to plans and specifications adopted, they shall advertise in two or more newspapers of general circulation in such county for bids for the erection of buildings on said lands according to said plans and specifications. The letting of the contract or contracts for the erection of said buildings shall first be approved by the court of common pleas in such county.

All proceedings for the assessment of damages for property taken, injured or destroyed under the exercise of the right of eminent domain in this section conferred, shall be in accordance with proceedings provided for by Section 705 to 711, inclusive, hereof.

(Sec. 9, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538)

**Sec. 217. SALE OF POOR PROPERTY.** After the construction, equipment and furnishing of new buildings, the directors of the poor, with the approval of the court of common pleas of the proper county, are authorized to sell the site or buildings of any disused county poor house and apply the proceeds of such sale, together with such sums of money belonging to the poor district as may be approved by said court, by whomsoever the same may be held or deposited, toward the payment for such new lands, buildings, equipment and furnishings.

(Sec. 10, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538)

**Sec. 218. VIEWERS OF NEW BUILDINGS.** Whenever new buildings shall be finished and completed the said directors of the poor shall certify their proceedings to the court of common pleas of said county, whereupon the said court shall appoint three competent and disinterested persons as viewers to view and thoroughly examine said buildings and report to the court whether the said contract or contracts have been faithfully and fully performed and completed, and until such report be so made final payment on said contract or contracts shall not be made. The said viewers shall be entitled to a sum not in excess of ten dollars per day for each day necessarily engaged in the performance of their duties as the court shall determine, to be paid from the funds of the poor district.

(Sec. 11, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538)

**Sec. 219. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS.** For the purpose of purchasing any lands or buildings or erecting, constructing, repairing,

improving, furnishing and equipping any poor house or buildings, the directors of the poor are authorized to borrow money within the limits of amount now fixed by law, and issue bonds therefor and negotiate the same for the purpose of raising the necessary money. Such bonds shall not be of a denomination less than one hundred dollars nor bear interest of a higher rate than six per centum. They shall be payable by the said poor district, shall not be sold below par, shall not be subject to taxation except for State purposes, and shall be sold to the highest responsible bidder, after public notice by advertisement once a week for three weeks in at least one newspaper of general circulation published in the county; Provided, this shall not apply to the giving of notes for temporary loans as may be authorized by Section 224 hereof.

**Sec. 220. QUORUM. RULES AND REGULATIONS.** A majority of the directors of the poor shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. They shall have full power to make all such rules and regulations as they shall think proper, convenient and necessary for the direction, government and support of the poor, the poor house and grounds and poor farm, and of the revenues thereunto belonging and of all such persons and things as shall come under their care or cognizance, but such rules and regulations shall not be repugnant to the Constitution or laws of this State or of the United States and shall be approved by the court of common pleas of the proper county.

(Sec. 13, Act of May 13, 1921, P. L. 538)

**Sec. 221. REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS.** The directors of the poor shall make all necessary repairs and improvements of buildings and grounds, provide for the cultivation of the real estate and all things necessary for the maintenance and employment of the poor of such district, and use the proceeds of labor of the poor under their charge in their support and maintenance.

(Sec. 14, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538)

**Sec. 222. MEETINGS. RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS.** Such directors of the poor shall meet at least once a month at the poor house, visit the apartments, inspect the management of the work upon and about the real estate, see that the poor are properly treated, and hear all complaints, and cause all grievances that may happen by neglect to be redressed. They shall keep a record of their proceedings, which shall be evidence of their action in any subsequent judicial proceedings.

(Sec. 15, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538)

**Sec. 223. TAXES, LEVY AND COLLECTION OF.** The basis of taxation for poor purposes shall be the last preceeding assessment upon real property, trades, occupations and professions for county rates and levies.

The county commissioners shall, upon the requisition of the Directors



of the Poor, annually collect a tax not exceeding in one year ten mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation, for the purpose of supporting the poor, paying officials and employes and the current expenses of managing the buildings and the poor farm. The taxes shall be levied at the same time and collected in the same manner as other county taxes.

For the purpose of paying any debt incurred in the purchase of real estate and the erection of buildings, and to redeem bonds authorized by this act and also for the purpose of making permanent improvements on real estate, the commissioners shall, upon a like requisition, levy a special tax which shall be payable at the same time and collected in the same manner as the tax for current expenses.

Such special tax shall in no year exceed in amount one-half of the amount levied for current expenses.

Provided, however, that nothing in this section shall apply to any district wherein the directors of the poor now have authority to levy a poor tax.

(Sec. 17, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538, changed somewhat and proviso added)

**Sec. 224. TEMPORARY LOANS.** For the purpose of meeting unusual or unforeseen expenditures in the operation of the district, the directors may borrow money and give temporary notes therefor, not exceeding six months, and within the limitations designated in Section 219 hereof. Said temporary loans shall be fully liquidated or payment provided for in the next annual tax levy.

**Sec. 225. ACCOUNTS, AUDIT OF.** The directors of the poor shall keep accurate accounts of all moneys received by them in any way for the purposes of this act as well as all paid out, including such reasonable expenses as they may incur in carrying out their duties. All accounts under this act shall be audited by the county controller or county auditors as the case may be.

(Sec. 18, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538)

**Sec. 226. INSPECTION OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS AND RECORDS.** The poor house buildings and grounds shall at all times be open to inspection by the State Department of Welfare and its agents, and the directors of the poor shall at all times, when required, submit to the inspection and examination by said Department and its agents of all their books, accounts and records.

(Sec. 20, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538)

### CHAPTER III.

#### Elections. Vacancies in Office

**Sec. 300. NUMBER OF DIRECTORS.** The number of directors in each district is fixed at three, in all districts of the third and fourth classes, and in all other districts except where a different number now prevails, and their term of office is fixed at four years commencing on the first Monday of January next succeeding their election.

**Sec. 301. ELECTION IN NEWLY CREATED DISTRICTS.** At the first municipal election in a district newly created under this act, one director shall be elected for two years and two directors for four years.

**Sec. 302. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.** At the municipal election next preceding the expiration of the term of any director of the poor, the qualified voters of each poor district, where the office is elective, shall elect one or more directors of the poor as may be required, and in case of election for other than the regular term, such fact shall be designated.

**Sec. 303. VACANCIES.** In case of vacancy in the office of director by death, resignation or otherwise, the said vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the court of quarter sessions, said appointee to serve until the first Monday of January next succeeding the first municipal election at which such vacancy can by law be filled by election, and at such election a director shall be elected to serve for the unexpired term.

## CHAPTER IV.

### Salaries

**Sec. 400. SALARIES IN DISTRICTS OTHER THAN THIRD AND FOURTH CLASSES; IN THIRD CLASS; IN FOURTH CLASS; TRAVELING EXPENSES IN ADDITION.** The annual salary of each director of the poor in districts other than those of the third and fourth classes shall remain as now fixed by law, to be paid in same manner as employees of the County.

The annual salary of directors of the poor in districts of the third class shall be \$1500, to be paid in the same manner as employees of the County.

The annual salary of directors of the poor in districts of the fourth class shall be \$750, in addition to their compensation as county commissioners, to be paid in same manner as employees of the County.

All directors of the poor of this commonwealth shall in addition to the salary above specified be allowed their travelling expenses necessarily incurred in the discharge of their official duties, to be paid in the same manner as employees of the County.

## CHAPTER V.

### Records and Reports

**Sec. 500. DIRECTORS TO KEEP RECORDS AS PRESCRIBED BY DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE.** It shall be the duty of the directors of the poor, or other persons having charge of the poor in the several districts, and of all directors and managers of charitable and correctional institutions of the commonwealth receiving state aid, to keep their records after the manner and in the form to be prescribed by the Department of Welfare, and to make returns thereof to said Department, at such times as they may direct; and in default thereof, the person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay a fine of not less than one hundred dollars, to be sued for and collected in the name of the said Department, for the use of the commonwealth.

(Sec. 3, Act of April 5, 1872, P. L. 42)



**Sec. 501. REPORTS OF PERSONS APPLYING FOR TREATMENT OF DISEASE.** All superintendents or managers, or other persons in charge of hospitals, almshouses, lying-in-hospitals or other institutions, public or private, to which persons resort for treatment of disease, confinement, or are committed by process of law, are hereby required to make a record of all of the personal and statistical particulars relative to the inmates in their institutions, as directed by the State Registrar, and thereafter such record shall be by them made for all future inmates at the time of their admission. And in case of persons admitted or committed for medical treatment of disease, the physician in charge shall specify for entry in the record, the nature of the disease, and where, in his opinion, it was contracted. The personal particulars and information required by this section shall be obtained from the individual himself, if it is practicable to do so, and when they cannot be obtained they shall be secured in as complete a manner as possible from the relatives, friends, or other persons acquainted with the facts.

(Sec. 17, Act of June 7, 1915, P. L. 900)

**Sec. 502. REPORTS TO ANATOMICAL BOARD OF DEATHS OF PERSONS REQUIRED TO BE BURIED AT PUBLIC EXPENSE.** All public officers, agents, and servants, and all officers, agents and servants of any and every county, city, township, borough, district, and other municipality, and of any and every almshouse, prison, morgue, hospital, or other municipality or other public institution, and all other persons, having charge or control over dead human bodies required to be buried at the public expense, are hereby required to immediately notify the State Anatomical Board or such person or persons as may, from time to time, be designated by said Board or its duly authorized officer or agent, whenever any such body or bodies come to his or their possession, charge, or control; and shall, without fee or reward, deliver such body or bodies, and permit and suffer the said Board and its agents and the physicians and surgeons from time to time designated by them, who may comply with the provisions of this act, to take and remove all such bodies to be used within the State for the advancement of medical science. Such notice shall be given to the board of distribution in all cases, but no such body shall be delivered, if any relative by blood or marriage shall claim the body for burial, at the expense of such relative within thirty-six hours after death, but the body shall be surrendered to said claimant for interment; nor shall any such body be delivered, if any friend, or any representative of a fraternal society of which deceased was a member, or a representative of any charitable organization, shall claim the said body for burial within twenty-four hours after death; said burial to be at the expense of such friend, fraternal society, or charitable organization; nor shall the body be delivered if said person was an honorably discharged soldier, sailor, or marine of the United States, or of the militia of the State of Pennsylvania; in which case said body shall be buried in accordance with the provisions of existing laws. In case of the death of any person whose body is required to be buried at the public expense, and the duly authorized officer or agent of the board deems such body unfit for anatomical purposes, he shall notify in writing the poor directors, or the county commissioners of the county where such person died; who shall direct some person to take charge of the body of such deceased indigent person, and cause it to be buried; and draw warrants

upon the treasurer of their county for the payment of such expenses, which expenses shall not be less than thirty-five dollars nor more than fifty dollars on each body buried in accordance with the provisions of this act. Such warrants shall be made payable to the persons so authorized and directed, who shall have buried the bodies for which no warrants are to be drawn. No warrants for the payment of the expenses of the burial of any person whose body is required to be buried at the public expense shall be drawn or paid except upon the certificate of the duly authorized officer or agent of the Board, to the effect that such body is unfit for anatomical purposes or that the body is that of a soldier, sailor, or marine required to be buried at the public expense, and that the provisions of this act have been complied with. Wherever, through the failure of any person to deliver the body of a deceased indigent as required by this act, such body shall become unfit for anatomical purposes, and is so certified by the duly authorized officers or agent of said board of distribution, such body shall be buried in accordance with the provisions of this act; and the person so failing to deliver such body shall pay to the county treasurer the expense so incurred, and, upon the refusal or failure of such person on demand to pay such expenses, the poor directors, or, in districts in which there are no separate poor directors, then the county commissioners, shall bring suit to recover the same, to be recovered as debts of like amount are by law collectible.

(Sec. 2, Act of June 13, 1883, P. L. 119, as amended by Act of April 20, 1921, P. L. 167)

## CHAPTER VI.

### Directors of the Poor

**Sec. 600. DIRECTORS DECLARED COUNTY OFFICERS.** The directors of the poor of districts, co-extensive with the county, are hereby declared to be county officers and subject in the discharge of their duties and obligations as directors of the poor, to all the general laws relating to county officers.

(Sec. 1, Act of March 30, 1921)

**Sec. 601. THIS ACT TO APPLY THROUGHOUT STATE.** The provisions of this act shall apply generally throughout the commonwealth, including the districts made territorial exceptions in Section 200 hereof.

**Sec. 602. DIRECTORS NOT TO BE INTERESTED IN CONTRACTS.** It shall not be lawful for any director of the poor to be concerned or personally interested in any contract for furnishing supplies for the maintenance of the poor, or for the construction or improvement of property under his control. Any violation of the provisions of this act shall be deemed a misdemeanor in office, and upon conviction thereof, the party or parties so offending shall be fined in a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, and shall be adjudged by the court to be removed from office; provided, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent such director from receiving his lawful compensation while necessarily attending in his official character to any of the duties enjoined upon him by his office.

(Sec. 1, Act of May 15, 1874, P. L. 180)

**Sec. 603. CONTRACTS OF \$500 OR MORE TO BE IN WRITING.** It shall be the duty of poor directors to purchase all supplies for the maintenance of the inmates of the poorhouses or hospitals under their supervision by written contract, where such contract involves an expenditure of five hundred dollars or more. Said directors of the poor shall, by advertisement inserted in at least one newspaper of the county in which said institution is located, for two weeks, invite sealed proposals for the furnishing of such supplies, and shall award all such contracts to the lowest responsible bidder, and shall take from such bidder a bond, with sufficient sureties, conditioned for the faithful performance of his contract.

(Act of May 23, 1913, P. L. 297)

**Sec. 604. PENALTY FOR VIOLATION.** Any director of the poor violating the provisions of Section 603 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500), or to undergo an imprisonment not exceeding six months.

(Sec. 3, Act of May 23, 1913, P. L. 297)

**Sec. 605. DIRECTORS AUTHORIZED TO ATTEND CONVENTIONS.** The directors of the poor or other officers having charge of the poor in the poor districts of this Commonwealth, together with their solicitor, steward, or superintendent, and such other executive officers as may be designated by said directors or other officers, are hereby authorized, as part of their official duties, to attend the annual meeting of the association of directors of the poor and charities and corrections of Pennsylvania, for the purpose of discussing the various questions arising in the discharge of their duties and of providing for uniform and economical methods of administering the affairs of the respective poor districts.

(Sec. 1, Act of July 6, 1917, P. L. 734)

**Sec. 606. EXPENSES TO BE PAID BY DISTRICT.** The actual expenses of the aforesaid officials attending the said annual meetings of said association, including travelling expenses and hotel bills actually paid by them, together with a membership subscription by each poor district to the necessary expenses of the convention, including printing, employment of stenographers and expenses of committees,—which said membership subscription, however, shall not be more than thirty dollars for any poor district per annum,—shall be paid out of the funds of the poor district. The time spent in attending such meeting shall not be more than four days, exclusive of the time employed in traveling thereto and therefrom.

(Sec. 2, Act of July 6, 1917, P. L. 734, as amended by Act of 1923).

## CHAPTER VII.

### Real Property of Poor Districts

**Sec. 700. PLANS OF ALMSHOUSE TO BE APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE.** Before any mental hospital or almshouse shall be erected under the direction of the poor authorities within this Commonwealth, the plan of construction of such hospital or almshouse, drawn sufficiently in detail for clear comprehension thereof, shall be submitted to the Department of Welfare, and shall be inspected and approved by said Department.

(Sec. 4, Act of April 5, 1872, P. L. 42, deleted)



**Sec. 701. DISTRICTS MAY REQUIRE BONDS FROM CONTRACTORS FOR PROTECTION OF MATERIAL MEN.** All poor districts shall, in the improvement of lands, or in the erection, alteration, addition, or repair of edifices and buildings, of any kind, in said districts, have the power to require of the contractor or contractors, employed in and about said improvements, an additional bond with sufficient surety or sureties, providing for the payment of all labor and material entering into the said improvements.

(Sec. 1, Act of May 10, 1917, P. L. 158).

**Sec. 702. RIGHT TO SUE THEREON.** The labor and material-men furnishing labor and material in and for said improvements, upon the contract of said contractor, shall have the right according to law to sue in an action of assumpsit, in the name of the obligee for his or their use, upon said bond, upon proof of said contractor's failure to pay for said labor or material.

(Sec. 2, Act of May 10, 1917, P. L. 158).

**Sec. 703. COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS AUTHORIZED TO DECREE SALE OF POOR HOUSE PROPERTY.** The courts of common pleas of the several counties of this Commonwealth shall have jurisdiction, and are hereby authorized to decree a public or private sale of any poor-house property, or real estate held for the relief and employment of the poor, in any poor district, at such times and in such parts or parcels and upon such terms as, in the opinion of such court, may be considered most advantageous to such district.

(Sec. 1, Act of April 28, 1887, P. L. 75).

**Sec. 704. PROCEDURE THEREON.** Such sale may be decreed upon the petition of the directors of the poor of any district, setting forth that such sale would be to the advantage of the said district, and all facts needful for the information of the court, under oath or affirmation, and shall only take place, after a full and careful investigation by the court, aided, when deemed necessary, by the report of a competent person to be appointed by the court; and if upon such investigation the court shall deem it to the advantage of such district that property so held or any part thereof should be sold, such court is hereby authorized to decree a sale thereof, and to direct the investment of the proceeds of such sale or sales in the purchase, for the use of such district, of such other real estate as may be necessary for poor purposes, and in the erection of suitable buildings thereon for the comfortable maintenance, employments and support of the poor of such poor district, or such other investments or disposition thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to the district, or may distribute and award the proceeds among the municipalities entitled thereto. The Court may in its discretion require proper bond to be given before or after sale for the faithful accounting and application of the proceeds.

(Sec. 2, Act of April 28, 1887, P. L. 75).

**Sec. 705. RIGHT OF EMINENT DOMAIN.** Whenever the directors of any poor district shall desire land for the erection of necessary buildings or for farming or other purposes, or for procuring a supply of pure water for hospital purposes, and are unable to agree with the owner



or owners of the property upon the price to be paid therefor, the said directors, with the approval of the Court of Common Pleas for the proper county of such poor district, by themselves, their agents, and workman, shall have power to enter upon locate, survey, make, take, occupy, and use any such lands or appropriate such water for the purpose aforesaid; Provided, that no water shall be condemned and appropriated under the provisions of this act, nor any water system, reservoir, pipe, or conduit be constructed or maintained, until a permit for the condemnation and appropriation of such waters, or the construction or maintenance of such water system, reservoir, pipe, or conduit, shall have been procured from the department of health and the water supply commission of Pennsylvania; And provided further, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to relieve any hospital from the operation of the provisions of the act of April twenty-two, nineteen hundred and five.

(Sec. 1, Act of June 28, 1917, P. L. 651).

**Sec. 706. PROPERTY OF POOR DISTRICT TO BE SECURITY FOR LAND TAKEN.** The taking of any lands, by any poor district, by right of eminent domain, under the provisions of Section 705, is hereby declared to be the taking of private property for public purposes; and for all damages done, or suffered, or which shall accrue, to the owner or owners of such lands by reason of such taking, all the property of the poor district shall be pledged as security.

(Sec. 2, Act of June 28, 1917, P. L. 651).

**Sec. 707. APPOINTMENT OF VIEWERS TO FIX COMPENSATION.** If the directors of the poor cannot agree with the owner or owners of such lands, for the compensation proper for the damage sustained or likely to be sustained by any owner or owners, which such directors may enter upon, use, take, or occupy in pursuance of the authority herein given,—or by reason of the absence or legal incapacity of any such owner or owners no compensation can be agreed upon,—the court of common pleas of the county, on application thereto by petition, either by the directors of the poor, or by the owner or owners or any one in their behalf, shall appoint three viewers from the county board of viewers, and fix a time, not less than ten nor more than twenty days thereafter, for said viewers to meet at or upon the premises or property taken or occupied, of which time and place five days' notice shall be given by the petitioner to the said viewers and the other party.

(Sec. 3, Act of June 28, 1917, P. L. 651).

**Sec. 708. VIEWERS TO ESTIMATE DAMAGES AND REPORT TO COURT.** The viewers,—having been first duly sworn or affirmed faithfully, justly, and impartially to decide, and a true report to make, concerning all matters and things to be submitted to them, and in relation to which they are authorized to inquire in pursuance of the provisions of this act, and having viewed the premises,—shall estimate and determine what amount of damages, if any, have been or may be sustained, and to whom the same are payable, and make report thereof to the court. The amount of damages, when confirmed by the court, shall be entered as a judgment.

(Sec. 4, Act of June 28, 1917, P. L. 651).

**Sec. 709. APPEALS.** Upon the filing of the report of said viewers, or any two of them, either party may, within thirty days thereafter, file his, her, or their appeal from the said report to the court; and, after such appeal, either party may put the cause at issue, in the form directed by said court, and the same shall be tried by said court and jury; and, after final judgment, either party may have an appeal to the Supreme or Superior Court, in the manner provided in other cases.

The court shall have power to order what notices shall be given in connection with any part of the proceedings, and make all such rules in connection therewith as may be deemed requisite.

If any exceptions be filed with any appeal to the proceedings, they shall be disposed of; and, if allowed, a new view shall be ordered; and, if disallowed, the appeal shall proceed as before prescribed.

(Sec. 5, Act of June 28, 1917, P. L. 651).

**Sec. 710. DAMAGES TO BE PAID INTO COURT WHEN TITLE DISPUTED.** If, during any of said proceedings, it shall be made to appear, by affidavit or otherwise, to the satisfaction of the court, that the title to the said lands is disputed, doubtful or defective, or that any party in interest is absent, covert, not of full age, or for any other cause incapable to act; the court may make all needful orders to effect the purposes of this act, and may direct the damages and costs to be paid into court for the benefit of the parties who may eventually be entitled thereto.

(Sec. 6, Act of June 28, 1917, P. L. 651).

**Sec. 711. DAMAGES TO BE PAID TO OWNER WHEN FINALLY DETERMINED.** The amount of damages, as finally determined in any proceeding before viewers, shall be paid by the poor district, to the owner or owners of the property entitled thereto.

(Sec. 7, Act of June 28, 1917, P. L. 651).

**Sec. 712. LEASING OF POOR FARMS FOR COAL, OIL OR GAS.** The directors of the poor in the several districts of this Commonwealth having lands in connection with almshouses, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered, with the approval of the Court of Common Pleas, to lease said lands for the purpose of producing coal, oil or gas, on such terms as may be advantageous to such county or body corporate owning or controlling the same; the said court shall enter a decree directing the disposition or investment of the income of such lease.

(Sec. 1, Act of June 25, 1895, P. L. 299)

**Sec. 713. REBUILDING OF POOR HOUSES DESTROYED BY FIRE.** The directors of the poor in any district where a poor house has been heretofore erected, and the same has been or may hereafter be destroyed by fire, or other casualty, are authorized and empowered, to rebuild the buildings so destroyed, or to erect suitable separate buildings to segregate the sane and insane poor.

(Sec. 1, Act of April 10, 1879, P. L. 19)

**Sec. 714. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO LEVY AND COLLECT TAX FOR SUCH BUILDING.** The county commissioners of the respective counties, when such buildings have been or may hereafter be

destroyed by fire, or other casualty, shall have the power, and it shall be their duty, upon the requisition of said directors, to assess, levy and collect, together with the other county rates and levies, and on the same subjects of taxation, on estimates furnished by the directors, an amount sufficient to furnish the necessary funds to erect said buildings and furnish the same, in connection with any sum or sums of money received by said directors from insurance on said buildings so destroyed or from any other source.

(Sec. 2, Act of April 10, 1879, P. L. 19)

**Sec. 715. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND CONTRACTS FOR NEW BUILDING.** The plans and specifications for any buildings authorized by Section 714 to be erected, shall be first submitted to and approved by the Department of Welfare as provided in Section 700 hereof; and any contract for the erection of such building or buildings made by the directors of the poor with any contractor or contractors or for furnishing the necessary materials for the same, shall have the approval of the court of common pleas of the proper county before such contract becomes binding and operative.

(Sec. 4, Act of April 10, 1879, P. L. 19)

**Sec. 716. VIEWERS OF NEW BUILDINGS.** Whenever the said buildings shall be finished and completed, viewers shall be appointed under the provisions of Section 218 of this act.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### Settlement

**Sec. 800. HOW GAINED.** A settlement may be gained in any poor district by any person, not a public charge, married or single, who bona fide comes to inhabit therein and continues to reside there for one year. Persons born in a place, whether legitimate or illegitimate, shall be deemed to be settled there unless the parent having their custody be settled elsewhere; and all children shall follow the settlement of the parent or parents, stepfather or stepmother, having their custody, until the age of sixteen years.

(Sec. 1, Act of April 6, 1905, P. L. 112)

**Sec. 801. ORDER OF REMOVAL.** In case any person shall have no settlement in the district wherein he has become, or is likely to become a public charge, it shall be the duty of the directors, as soon as may be, to notify the directors of the district of his settlement of the facts, and from the time of such notice the cost of his relief shall be charged to the district of his settlement. If the directors so notified refuse or neglect to receive him, or to make arrangements for his proper support and maintenance, the directors furnishing such relief may apply to the court of quarter sessions of their county, or to any judge thereof, by petition, asking for a citation to the directors so refusing or neglecting, requiring them to appear before such court, at a time specified therein, and show cause why an order should not issue for the removal of such person into their district. The said court shall proceed to hear and determine the cause upon its merits, and their decree shall be final unless an appeal therefrom be taken within thirty days.

The citation herein provided for accompanied by a copy of the petition, shall be served by the Sheriff of the county, who may for that purpose



deputize the Sheriff of the county of the respondent upon one or more of the directors named therein, or with the approval of the Court, service may be had by sending such copy by registered mail, and shall be served or mailed at least ten days before the day fixed for such hearing. Provided, that upon the hearing and argument before said court of quarter sessions, of said citation for an order of removal of paupers from one district to another, it shall be lawful for either of the parties to the issue to except to any decision of the court upon any point of evidence or law, which exceptions shall be noted by the court and filed of record as in civil cases; and an appeal to an appellate court may be taken by either party from the judgment or decree of the court, with like effect as in civil cases:

(Sec. 2, Act of April 6, 1905, P. L. 112)

**Sec. 802. LIABILITY FOR COSTS.** In case an order of removal is granted by any court of quarter sessions, under the provisions of this act, the court, in the same order, shall require the directors of the district of settlement to pay the petitioners the cost of the proceedings, the expense of removing, and the proper charges for the relief of the poor person from the date of the notice first above provided for; all of which expense, cost and charges shall be ascertained and allowed by the court. If an order of removal is refused the cost of the proceeding shall be paid by the directors petitioning therefor.

(Sec. 3, Act of April 6, 1905, P. L. 112)

**Sec. 803. JURISDICTION OF QUARTER SESSIONS.** The court of quarter sessions shall have full and complete authority and jurisdiction to enforce by appropriate methods its orders or directions made in such proceeding.

**Sec. 804. CARE OF TRANSIENT.** If any person shall come out of any poor district in this commonwealth, into any other district, and shall happen to fall sick or die, before he have gained a settlement therein, so that he cannot be removed the directors of such district shall, as soon as conveniently may be, give notice to the directors of the district where such person had last gained a settlement, or to one of them, of the name, circumstances and condition of such poor person; and if the directors to whom such notice shall be given, shall neglect or refuse to pay the moneys expended for the use of such poor person, and to take order for relieving and maintaining him, or in case of his death before such notice could be given, shall, on request made, neglect or refuse to pay the moneys expended in maintaining and burying such poor person; in every such case the procedure defined in Section 801 of this act may be invoked, to compel payment by such district, of all such sums of money as were expended for said purposes.

(Sec. 23, Act of June 13, 1836, P. L. 539)

**Sec. 805. LEAVING POOR PERSONS IN DISTRICT.** If any person shall bring or send or cause to be brought or sent, any poor person from any place without this Commonwealth, or from any place within this Commonwealth to any other place within it, where such person was not last legally settled, and there leave, or attempt to leave such person, with intent to relieve himself or some other place or district of the maintenance of such person, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of One Hundred (\$100)



Dollars for every such person, and become liable to pay all the costs respecting the maintenance and removal, or either, of such person, to be sued for and recovered by the directors of the district, into which such poor person may have been brought or sent, and moreover, shall be obliged to convey such poor person out of the commonwealth or district, or support him at his own expense.

(Sec. 25, Act of June 13, 1836, P. L. 539, rewritten and amended)

## CHAPTER IX

### Duties and Powers of Directors

**Sec. 900. MAINTENANCE OF POOR PERSONS.** It shall be the duty of the directors of every district from time to time, to provide, as is herein directed, for every poor person within the district, having a settlement therein, who shall apply to them for relief, where such directors are satisfied, upon investigation, that such relief is necessary. Such relief may be granted as outdoor relief, or such poor person may be committed to the poor house on the written order of a director of the poor, to be approved by the Board of Directors within a month thereafter, or upon an order of removal issued out of any court.

(Sec. 1, Act of June 13, 1836, P. L. 539)

**Sec. 901. POOR PERSONS UNABLE TO WORK.** If such poor person, by reason of age, disease, infirmity, or other disability, be unable to work, it shall be the duty of the directors to provide him with the necessary means of subsistence.

(Sec. 4, Act of June 13, 1836, P. L. 539)

**Sec. 902. UNEMPLOYED POOR MAY BE EMPLOYED ON HIGHWAYS.** It shall be lawful for the directors of any district, with the concurrence and under the direction of the supervisors of the township, to employ such poor person, being a male of sufficient ability, in opening or repairing any road or highway within the district.

(Sec. 3, Act of June 13, 1836, P. L. 539)

**Sec. 903. MAINTENANCE OF POOR IN ALMSHOUSE OF ADJOINING DISTRICT.** The directors of the poor, in all districts not having poor houses, are hereby authorized to contract with the authorities in charge of the poor in any adjoining or convenient district having a poor-house, for the maintenance of the poor under their charge, and to remove such poor to the poor-house of such district.

(Sec. 1, Act of July 9, 1897, P. L. 222)

**Sec. 904. CHILDREN BETWEEN TWO AND SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE.** It shall not be lawful for the directors of the poor in the several districts of this commonwealth, to receive into, or retain in, any almshouse or poor-house, any child between two and sixteen years of age, for a longer period than sixty days, unless such child be an unteachable idiot, an epileptic or paralytic, or otherwise so disabled or deformed as to render it incapable of labor or service. Violation hereof shall be deemed a misdemeanor and shall subject the offender, upon conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$100 or imprisonment not exceeding six months, either or both, at the discretion of the Court.

(Sec. 2, Act of May 20, 1921, P. L. 1030, with penalty added)

**Sec. 905. PLACING CHILDREN.** It shall be the duty of said directors or other persons having charge of the poor, to place all dependent children who are in, or committed to, their charge, and who are over two years of age (with the exceptions named in the preceding section of this act), in some respectable family, or in some educational institution or home for children; and one of said officers shall visit such children, in person or by agent, not less than once every six months, and make all needful inquiries as to their treatment and welfare, and shall report thereon to the board of directors or other offices charged with the care of such children.

(Sec. 3, Act of May 20, 1921, P. L. 1030)

**Sec. 906. QUARANTINED PERSONS CONSIDERED "NEEDY AND INDIGENT POOR".** Whenever any head of a family or a person, shall be quarantined by any authority, because of any infections or contagious disease, and by reason of such quarantine such person becomes unable to pay the expense of the maintenance and treatment of his family or himself during the period of quarantine, he shall be considered a "poor person" or a "needy and indigent poor" person within the meaning of the poor laws of this Commonwealth.

(Sec. 1, Act of May 28, 1907, P. L. 285)

**Sec. 907. RELIEF OF INDIGENT DEAF AND DUMB.** That the directors of the poor of any district, may enter into a contract with any association organized for the purpose of providing a home for deaf and dumb persons, and being situated within the boundaries of the State of Pennsylvania, for the care and maintenance at such home of any indigent deaf and dumb person who may be an inmate of the almshouse of any poor district, or who may be under the laws of Pennsylvania entitled to relief from such poor district.

(Sec. 1, Act of May 17, 1917, P. L. 223)

**Sec. 908. REMOVAL OF DEAF AND DUMB TO CARE OF CERTAIN ASSOCIATIONS.** The contract as hereinbefore provided shall be entered into by the poor district, on its own motion, with such qualified institutions as they may select; Provided, however, That the State Department of Welfare or any of its authorized agents, may direct any poor district to remove any deaf and dumb inmate of an almshouse to the care of an association qualified under this act; and when such removal is so ordered, the contract for maintenance and the removal of the inmate to such institution shall be made and carried out by the directors of the poor district; or, in the event of their failure to comply with such directions, the said contract and the removal of such inmate may be made and carried out by the Department of Welfare, or its authorized agents.

(Sec. 2, Act of May 17, 1917, P. L. 223)

**Sec. 909. COST OF MAINTENANCE THEREOF.** Whenever a contract for such care and maintenance is made, whether by any poor district or by the Department of Welfare, for any poor district, the said poor district, shall, during the period such person may remain in said institution, pay to such association annually a sum equal to the per capita cost of maintaining inmates in the almshouse of such poor district, and all such costs for maintenance shall be collectible by process of existing laws.

(Sec. 3, Act of May 17, 1917, P. L. 223)

**Sec. 910. APPROPRIATIONS TO ASSOCIATIONS FOR RELIEF OF POOR.** The proper officers of the several poor districts in each and every county of this Commonwealth may, in their discretion, upon satisfactory proof being produced to them of the advisability thereof, make an appropriation yearly, to incorporated associations maintained by gifts and voluntary contributions, and formed for the purpose of assisting, relieving, and giving medical care and attention to the poor, injured or sick, within their respective poor districts or any municipal division thereof: Provided, That this act shall in no wise apply to corporations whose objects and purposes are limited to the members thereof or to any nationality or sect.

(Sec. 1, Act of June 3, 1911, P. L. 649)

**Sec. 911. BURIAL OF INDIGENT PERSONS.** It shall be the duty of the directors of each poor district where provision is not made by law, to provide for the burial of all indigent persons other than travelers or honorably discharged soldiers, sailors or marines, who shall die within their respective districts, and whose bodies shall not be claimed by any relative by blood or marriage or by a friend or by a representative of a fraternal organization of which the deceased was a member or, by the representatives of any charitable organization or which may not be claimed by the Anatomical Board of the State of Pennsylvania for the use for scientific purposes under the provisions of existing laws. The expense of any such burial shall not be less than Twenty-five Dollars, nor more than Seventy-five Dollars, and shall be paid from the funds of the poor district.

(Sec. 1, Act of May 5, 1921, P. L. No. 179)

## CHAPTER X

### Liability for Support

**Sec. 1000. ESTATE OF PAUPER LIABLE FOR HIS MAINTENANCE.** The real and personal estate of any pauper shall be liable for the expenses of his support, maintenance, and burial, incurred by any poor district, whether owned at the time such expenses were incurred or acquired thereafter.

(Sec. 1, Act of June 25, 1913, P. L. 564)

**Sec. 1001. POOR AUTHORITIES MAY SUE FOR MONEYS EXPENDED.** The directors of the poor or the county commissioners in charge of any poor district may sue for the moneys expended by them on account of such pauper, in an action of assumpsit, in the proper court of the county; and any judgment obtained shall be a lien upon the real estate of such pauper, and be collected as other judgments are now collected.

(Sec. 2, Act of June 25, 1913, P. L. 564)

**Sec. 1002. STATUS OF CLAIM AGAINST REAL ESTATE OF DECEASED PAUPER.** Any claim, as provided for in section 1000, shall have the same force and effect against the real estate of a deceased pauper as other debts of a decedent, and shall be ascertained and recovered in the same manner.

(Sec. 3, Act of June 25, 1913, P. L. 564)

**Sec. 1003. GUARDIANSHIP OF PAUPER.** When any person shall become a public charge, the directors may file a certificate setting fourth



the fact of chargeability in the office of the Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas of such county, where such person is of full age, or in the office of the Clerk of the Orphan's Court of such county, where such person is a minor; and attach thereto an inventory of all property, real, personal and mixed, which may be owned by such poor person, or to which the directors may believe the said poor person to be entitled, and thereupon the said directors shall be and become, to all intents and purposes, guardian of the person and estate of such poor person (whether all of such estate be enumerated in the inventory or not), with all the rights at law now enjoyed by guardians of the persons and estates of adults or minor children. The Prothonotary shall index the filing of such certificate in the name of such poor person in the adsectum equity index, and the Clerk of the Orphans' Court shall index such certificate filed in his office in the Orphans' Court index, which indexing in either office shall be regarded as notice to the world of such facts. No poor person in such case shall be discharged from such guardianship and his property shall not be released therefrom until he has made application to the proper court by petition for a citation upon the directors, and after service thereof, has fully satisfied the court that he has become able and willing to resume control of his own person and estate, and that the said district has been fully reimbursed for the expense of his maintenance, or that all of his estate has been applied thereon. The cost of such proceedings shall be paid by the petitioner, unless otherwise ordered by the court. Provided, that nothing herein shall prejudice the rights of an innocent purchaser for value of any personal property of said pauper. (Sec. XXXVIII, of Act proposed by the Poor Law Commission of 1890)

**Sec. 1004. LEASING OF REAL ESTATE OF PAUPERS.** It shall be lawful for the directors of the poor of any district, under the supervision of the common pleas court, where the pauper is of full age, and of the orphans' court, where the pauper is a minor, of such county, to make leases for a term of years of the real estate of any pauper, and receive the rents, issues and profits thereof, and apply the proceeds, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to defray the expenses incurred in the support and burial of such pauper, and the balance or residue thereof shall be paid to the legal representatives of such pauper, after his or her death, upon indemnity being made to such directors to secure them from the claims of all other persons; and after the payment of the claims of such directors, the rents, issues and profits arising under such lease shall be payable to the legal representatives of such pauper.

(Sec. 1, Act of April 4, 1877, P. L. 51)

**Sec. 1005. POOR AUTHORITIES TO SUE FOR AND RECOVER PROPERTY OF PAUPERS.** It shall be lawful for the directors of the poor of any district, in which any person shall have become chargeable, to sue for and recover any real or personal estate belonging to such person, and to sell or otherwise dispose of the personal property and to collect and receive the rents and profits of the real estate, and to apply the proceeds, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to defray the expenses incurred in the support and burial of such person; and if any balance shall remain, the same shall be paid over to the legal representatives of such person, after his death, upon demand made and security being given to indemnify such directors from the claims of all other persons.

(Sec. 33, Act of June 13, 1836, P. L. 539)



**Sec. 1006. POOR AUTHORITIES TO COLLECT MONEY DUE PAUPER.** Whenever any person shall have become a public charge in any poor district of this commonwealth, it shall be lawful for the directors of the poor of such district, to sue for and recover any and all sums of money which may be due to such poor persons in the present, or to become due in the future, whether the same be claimed by such poor person upon an express or an implied contract, by judgment, mortgage, order or decree of any court having jurisdiction of the subject-matter; and for this purpose the said directors of the poor are authorized to employ any and all legal means which such poor person might have employed, had he or she not become chargeable as aforesaid.

(Sec. 1, Act of May 13, 1889, P. L. 201)

**Sec. 1007. FORM OF ACTION.** In all suits brought under section one of this act the writ or process shall issue in the name of the owner of the chose in action, for the use of the directors of the poor of the proper poor district, and at the hearing, proof that the owner of the right of action has become legally chargeable to the county or poor district whose directors of the poor are the use plaintiffs, shall be conclusive of their right to recover whatever may be legally due or to become due to the poor person, so found to be chargeable. If the amount due shall have been already ascertained and judgment entered, the proof that the said plaintiff has become chargeable as aforesaid shall be conclusive of the right of the proper directors of the poor to be subrogated as plaintiffs in the said judgment, and if the sum due such poor person shall be founded on an order or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, then proof before such court on a rule to show cause, that such poor person has become chargeable to any county or poor district, shall be conclusive of the right of the directors of the poor of such poor district to recover the same, whether the same be due in the present or in the future, or be due in one or several instalments; and the said court shall make all the orders necessary to carry the provisions of this section into effect. Any defendant upon whom notice has been served of intention to begin proceedings under the provisions of this act, to recover the amount owing by him to a person chargeable to any county or poor district, who shall after this notice pay the same or any portion thereof to any other person than the proper directors of the poor, shall not thereby be released from any liability, but shall be liable to pay his entire indebtedness to the said directors of the poor.

(Sec. 2, Act of May 13, 1889, P. L. 201)

**Sec. 1008. REFUND OF UNEXPENDED MONEY BELONGING TO PAUPER.** Should any person chargeable to any county or poor district in this commonwealth, become self-sustaining or cease to be chargeable, by being supported by a relative or other person, then any moneys originally belonging to such poor person which may have been recovered under the provisions of Sections 1005 or 1006, by the directors of the poor of such poor district, shall belong to such poor person, the same as if no proceeding under this act had been instituted; and on the death of any person chargeable to any poor district, any moneys originally belonging to such poor person, which may have been recovered under the provisions of this act and not expended in the care, support or funeral of such poor person, shall belong to the heirs of such poor person, the same as if it had

never been obtained by the directors of the poor under the provisions of this act: Provided, That if the entire amount expended in the care, support and funeral of such poor person, shall exceed the amount recovered under the provisions of this act, nothing shall be refunded to the said poor person or his heirs in any event.

(Sec. 3, Act of May 13, 1889, P. L. 201)

**Sec. 1009. SEIZURE OF PROPERTY OF DESERTERS.** If any man shall separate himself from his wife, without reasonable cause, or shall desert his children, or if any woman shall desert her children, leaving them a charge upon the district, in any such case, it shall be lawful for any magistrate of the county, upon complaint made by the directors of the district, to issue his warrant to such directors, therein authorizing them to take and seize so much of the goods and chattels, and receive so much of the rents and profits of the real estate of such man or woman, or to attach so much of his or her wages or of any other sums, due, as, in the judgment of the said magistrate, shall be sufficient to provide for such wife, and to maintain and bring up such children, which sum or amount shall be specified in such warrant; but if sufficient real or personal estate cannot be found, then to arrest such person, and bring him before such magistrate, at a time to be specified in such warrant.

(Sec. 29, Act of June 13, 1836, P. L. 539).

**Sec. 1010. SECURITY FOR APPEARANCE AT COURT.** It shall be lawful for such magistrate, on the return of such warrant, to require security from such person, for his appearance at the next court of quarter sessions of the county, there to abide the order of the court; and for want of such security, to commit such person to the county jail.

(Sec. 30, Act of June 13, 1836, P. L. 539).

**Sec. 1011. COURT TO MAKE ORDER.** The warrant aforesaid shall be returned to the next court of quarter sessions of the county, when it shall be lawful for the said court to make an order for the payment of such sums as they shall think reasonable, for the purpose aforesaid, and therein authorizing the directors to dispose of the goods and chattels aforesaid, by sale or otherwise, and to collect and receive the rents and profits aforesaid, or so much of either as in the judgment of the court, shall be sufficient for the purpose aforesaid; but if there be no real or personal estate, it shall be lawful for the court to commit such person to the jail or workhouse of the county, there to remain until he or she comply with such order, give security for the performance thereof, or be discharged by due course of law.

(Sec. 31, Act of June 13, 1836, P. L. 539).

**Sec. 1012. RELATIVES LIABLE FOR SUPPORT.** The husband, wife, children, father, mother, grandparents and the grandchildren, respectively, of every poor person shall, at their own charge, being of sufficient ability, relieve and maintain such poor person at such rate as the court of quarter sessions of the county where such poor person resides shall order and direct.

(Sec. 4, Act of April 6, 1905, P. L. 112).

**Sec. 1013. ATTACHMENT MAY ISSUE UPON DEFAULT.** In all cases where an order has been made by the court of quarter sessions for the support of a husband, wife, father, mother, child, grandfather, grandmother, or grandchild; or where an order has been made upon a husband, wife, father, mother, child, grandfather, grandmother, or grandchild of a person confined in any hospital, asylum, home or other institution, at the charge of any county or poor district, for the support of the said person, so maintained as a charge by the said county or poor district; and the said order, made for the support or maintenance of any of the said persons heertofore mentioned, has not been complied with by the person on whom the said order has been made, for a period of thirty days; the court of quarter sessions wherein the said order shall have been made, or any judge thereof, upon affidavit or petition filed, setting forth that the person on whom the said order has been made has not complied with the said order, shall issue an attachment, directed to the sheriff or other proper officer of the county, directing and commanding that the person named as having failed to comply with said order be brought before the court forthwith, or at such other time as the court may in its discretion direct. Whereupon, if it shall appear to the court, after hearing, that the person on whom the said order was made has wilfully neglected to comply with the said order upon him, the court may adjudge said person in contempt of court.

(Sec. 1, Act of June 15, 1911, P. L. 973).

**Sec. 1014. PENALTY FOR NOT COMPLYING WITH ORDER OF SUPPORT.** If the court, after hearing, shall adjudge the person on whom the said order has been made to be in contempt of court, it shall be lawful for the court, in the exercise of its discretion, to commit the said person to the county jail for a period not exceeding six months.

(Sec. 2, Act of June 15, 1911, P. L. 974)

**Sec. 1015. ORDER ON RELATIVES FOR MAINTENANCE.** The courts of quarter sessions in the several counties of this commonwealth shall have power to hear, determine and make orders and decrees, in all cases, either upon the petition of the directors of the poor, or of any other person or persons having an interest in the support of said poor person or persons, and either with or without an order of relief having been first obtained.

(Sec. 1, Act of April 15, 1857, P. L. 191)

**Sec. 1016. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS, NO DEFENSE.** In all suits, claims or demands of any poor district for maintenance and support against the real or personal estate or property rights of any pauper, the statute of limitations shall not avail as a defence.

## CHAPTER XI.

### Vagrants

**Sec. 1100. WHO ARE VAGRANTS.** The following described persons are hereby declared to be vagrants:

I. All persons who shall unlawfully return into any district whence they have been legally removed, without bringing a certificate from the proper authorities of the city or district to which they belong, stating that they have a settlement therein.



II. All persons who shall refuse to perform the work which shall be allotted to them by the overseers of the poor, as provided by the act of June 13th, 1836, entitled "An Act relating to the support and employment of the poor."

III. All persons going about from door to door, or placing themselves in streets, highways or other roads, to beg or gather alms, and all other persons wandering abroad and begging, who have no fixed place of residence in the township, ward or borough in which the vagrant is arrested.

IV. All persons who shall come from any place without this commonwealth to any place within it and shall be found loitering or residing therein, and shall follow no labor, trade, occupation or business, and have no visible means of subsistence, and can give no reasonable account of themselves or their business in such place.

V. Husbands who shall desert or refuse without reasonable cause, to maintain and support their wives or family.

(Sec. 1, Act of May 8, 1876, P. L. 154, with paragraph V added)

**Sec. 1101. COMMITMENT OF VAGRANT.** If any person shall be found offending, in any township or place, against this act, it shall and may be lawful for any constable or police officer of such township or place, and he is hereby enjoined and required, on notice thereof given him by any of the inhabitants thereof, or without such notice, on his own view, to apprehend and convey, or cause to be conveyed such person to a justice of the peace or other committing magistrate of the county, who shall examine such person and shall commit him, being thereof legally convicted before him, on his own view or by the confessions of such offenders, or by the oath or affirmation of one or more credible witnesses, to labor upon any county farm or upon the roads and highways of any city, township or borough, or in any house of correction, poorhouse, work-house or common jail, for a term of not less than thirty days and not exceeding six months, and shall forthwith commit him to the custody of the steward, keeper or superintendent of such county farm, house of correction, poor-house, work-house or common jail, or to the supervisors or street commissioners and directors of the poor of the respective county, city, borough, township or district, wherein such person shall be found, as in his judgment shall be deemed most expedient; the said justice of the peace or committing magistrate, in every case of conviction, annexing thereto the names and records of the different witnesses examined before him, and shall, by warrant, under hand, commit such person as aforesaid: Provided, Any person who shall conceive himself aggrieved by any act, judgment or determination of any justice of the peace or alderman, in and concerning the execution of this act, may appeal to the quarter sessions of the county, giving reasonable notice thereof, whose orders thereupon shall be final.

(Sec. 2, Act of May 8, 1876, P. L. 154).

**Sec. 1102. EMPLOYMENT FOR VAGRANTS.** It shall be the duty of the custodian of any such vagrant, to make active efforts to provide work for every vagrant committed under this act, and not disqualified by sickness, old age or casualty; and whenever labor cannot be provided in the place to which any vagrant is committed, it shall be lawful for such custodian, and it is hereby declared to be his duty, with the approval of the board of directors of the poor, to contract with the proper authorities of any



such township, borough, city, county or other persons, to do any work or labor outside the place of commitment; in all cases the work or labor shall be suited to the proper discipline, health and capacity of such vagrant and he shall be fed and clothed in a manner suited to the nature of the work engaged in and the condition of the season; and when any vagrant is committed under the provisions of this act to the custody of the supervisors or street commissioners and directors of the poor of any township, borough, city, or district or county, it shall be their duty to provide for him suitable lodging or quarters, either in a station-house or other building.

(Sec. 3, Act of May 8, 1876, P. L. 154).

**Sec. 1103. RETURN OF PERSON WITHOUT SETTLEMENT TO THEIR HOMES.** If any person, not being in the county, township or place in which he usually lives or has his home, shall apply to any director of the poor of any county, city, borough, township or district, stating that he is desirous to return to his home, but is poor and has not the means to do so, the said director may employ or let out such poor person to labor at some suitable place to be by them selected, and at such wages as shall seem to them just, and when, in the opinion of said director of the poor, such poor person shall have earned a sufficient sum, said director of the poor shall, with the money so earned, and with such additions thereto, from the treasury of the county, city, borough, township, or district as they may think reasonable, cause such person to be returned to his home, whether in this state or elsewhere.

(Sec. 4, Act of May 8, 1876, P. L. 154).

**Sec. 1104. DISCHARGE OF VAGRANTS.** The custodian of such vagrant may, at discretion, discharge such vagrant at any time within the term of commitment, upon not less than ten days' good behavior, or upon satisfactory security that he shall not become a charge upon the public within one year from the date of such discharge.

(Sec. 5, Act of May 8, 1876, P. L. 154).

**Sec. 1105. BUILDINGS AND ENCLOSURES FOR VAGRANTS.** The directors of every district in which there shall not be sufficient provision for the safe custody of persons committed under this chapter, with the approval of the court of common pleas, are hereby empowered to make suitable provisions by buildings or enclosures.

(Sec. 6, Act of May 8, 1876, P. L. 154)

**Sec. 1106. FEES; DISPOSITION OF FINES.** For each arrest, hearing or commitment, made under this chapter, there shall be paid out of the county treasury, to the committing magistrate, and the officer making such arrest or commitment, the sum of fifty cents each, and mileage as now provided by law, when such arrest is made more than one mile from the prison or place where such vagrant shall be committed, and no mileage shall be allowed to any officer making the arrest within one mile of the prison or place where such vagrant shall be committed. And no person shall be detained beyond the term of his or her commitment, by reason of his or her inability to pay the costs of his or her arrest, hearing and commitment, but shall forthwith be discharged by the officer in whose custody he may be. Any wilful refusal to make such arrest, on the part of any constable or

police officer, shall subject him to a penalty of five dollars, to be collected as penalties are collectible, and shall be paid into the poor fund of the district in which such officer resides, if such poor fund exists, and into the county treasury, where such poor fund does not exist.

(Sec. 7, Act of May 8, 1876, P. L. 154, as amended by Sec. 1, Act of May 3, 1878, P. L. 40)

**Sec. 1107. ALMSHOUSES DECLARED WORKHOUSES.** All almshouses are hereby declared to be work-houses for the purposes of this chapter; and it is hereby made the duty of the custodians of such buildings to provide work for such vagrants, and to compel them to work therein, when able, not less than six hours per day.

**Sec. 1108. CERTIFICATES OF DISCHARGE TO VAGRANTS.** The custodian of any vagrant, upon his discharge and at his request, shall give him a certificate of discharge, which shall exempt him from any further arrest for vagrancy for a period of five days; and the said custodian is hereby authorized to give in his discretion, to such discharged vagrant, a reasonable sum of money out of his earnings, or out of the treasury of the township, borough, city or county, to defray his expenses in securing employment.

(Sec. 9, Act of May 8, 1876, P. L. 154)

**Sec. 1109. EMPLOYMENT OF PRISONERS ON POOR FARMS.** It shall be lawful for the authorities having control and supervision of any county jail or county prison within this Commonwealth, and they are hereby empowered, with the approval of the court of quarter sessions, to permit the employment of such inmates serving sentences therein, as they shall deem advisable, at agricultural labor on any district almshouse farm of the poor district in which such jail or prison is located, by the poor authorities of such district, under the direction and guard of the warden or keeper of such jail or prison or any deputy or deputies of such warden or keeper, and all inmates so employed shall at all times be amenable to restraint, discipline, and punishment, in the same manner as if they were confined in the proper jail or prison.

(Sec. 1, Resolution of July 17, 1917, P. L. 1036,  
as amended by Resolution of April 18, 1919, P. L. 79)

**Sec. 1110. LIABILITY OF WARDEN OR KEEPER FOR ESCAPE.** No warden or keeper or his sureties shall be held liable on any bond conditioned for the safe-keeping of persons given into his care, in case any inmate so employed shall escape, if due care and diligence has been exercised in the discharge of the duties herein imposed.

(Sec. 2, of Resolution of July 17, 1917, P. L. 1036)

## CHAPTER XII.

### Sanatoria and Hospitals

**Sec. 1200. HOSPITALS FOR TUBERCULOSIS.** Poor districts in this commonwealth are authorized to acquire lands, supply, erect and equip hospitals or sanatoriums, for the care and treatment of indigent persons afflicted with tuberculosis.

(Sec. 1, Act of June 21, 1911, P. L. 1111)

**Sec. 1201. EQUIPMENT THEREOF.** Any poor district may hereafter supply, erect and equip a suitable institution for the maintenance, care and treatment of indigent persons afflicted with tuberculosis, according to plans and specifications approved by the State Department of Health, which hospital or sanatorium shall be provided with all the modern appliances for the treatment of tuberculosis, with a medical superintendent of experience in the treatment of tuberculosis, and who shall be in actual practice for at least five years,—in which the said patients are attended by trained and skilled nurses, and in every way receive the same care and attention as they would in any State sanatorium for care and treatment of tuberculosis.

(Sec. 2, Act of June 21, 1911, P. L. 1111)

**Sec. 1202. APPROPRIATION TO HOSPITAL OR SOCIETY.** Whenever there shall have been established, in any poor district of this commonwealth, a hospital or sanatorium for the treatment therein of indigent persons suffering from tuberculosis, or whenever there shall have been established in any county or district, a duly incorporated society, chartered to maintain a sanatorium for the treatment therein of persons suffering from tuberculosis, which said hospital or sanatorium has been erected and equipped in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the State Department of Health, it shall be lawful for the commissioners or directors of such county or district, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to appropriate out of the funds of such county to such poor district or out of the funds of such district to such incorporated society, so much money as may be necessary for the maintenance of indigent persons, residents of the county or district, who may be inmates of such hospital or sanatorium and under treatment for tuberculosis.

(Sec. 1, Act of April 28, 1915, P. L. 193)

**Sec. 1203. APPROPRIATION FOR MAINTENANCE LIMITED.** That such appropriation shall not exceed for each of such indigent inmates the sum of Twenty (\$20) Dollars per week, payable every three months, at the end of the period.

(Sec. 2 Act of April 28, 1915, P. L. 193)

**Sec. 1204. INSPECTION BY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.** That the commissioners of each county at all times shall have free access to such hospital or sanatoria, for inspection of its management and for ascertainment of the number of indigent persons receiving treatment therein.

(Sec. 3, Act of April 28, 1915, P. L. 193)

**Sec. 1205. COUNTY HOSPITAL FOR CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.** From and after the passage of this act, hospitals for care and treatment of persons suffering from contagious diseases may be constructed and maintained by counties in this commonwealth.

(Sec. 1, Act of May 24, 1917, P. L. 297)

**Sec. 1206. COMMISSIONERS TO PROVIDE.** Whenever in the opinion of the county commissioners of any county, a hospital for the care of contagious diseases appears to be necessary or advisable, the said county commissioners may either locate such a hospital on the grounds of the county poor-farm or may purchase a suitable location in some other local-



ity; provided such locality is not within, or close, to the built-up portion of any city, borough, or village, and not within one hundred (100) feet of any public highway.

(Sec. 2, Act of May 24, 1917, P. L. 297)

**Sec. 1207. APPROVAL OF PLANS BY COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH.** Plans and specifications may be prepared for such hospital by the county commissioners, or at their instance, which plans and specifications must be submitted to the Commissioner of Health of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for his approval, and must be so approved before the construction of any building is commenced.

(Sec. 3, Act of May 24, 1917, P. L. 297)

**Sec. 1208. MANNER OF CONSTRUCTION.** Upon the plans and specifications being approved by the Commissioner of Health, the said hospital may be constructed and equipped in the same manner that other county buildings are constructed and equipped, and the expense and cost of such construction and equipment paid by the county commissioners out of county funds.

(Sec. 4, Act of May 24, 1917, P. L. 297)

**Sec. 1209. CONDUCT AND MAINTENANCE OF HOSPITAL.** After such hospital is erected and equipped and ready for occupancy, it shall be conducted and maintained, by and under the authority of the directors of the poor, in the same manner that the county home and other county poor buildings are conducted and maintained.

(Sec. 5, Act of May 24, 1917, P. L. 297)

**Sec. 1210. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.** All expenses incident to the construction and maintenance of contagious disease hospitals, established in accordance with the provisions of this act, shall be paid out of county funds, and no appropriations shall be made to such hospitals by the State.

(Sec. 6, Act of May 24, 1917, P. L. 297)

**Sec. 1211. REMOVAL OF CONTAGIOUS CASES TO HOSPITAL.** In any county in which a hospital for the care and treatment of contagious diseases has been constructed and is being maintained, whenever, in the opinion of the health authorities,—either the local board or department of health of any city or borough in such county, or the State Department of Health,—proper quarantine measures cannot be otherwise enforced, the said health authorities may, for the protection of public health and the prevention of epidemics of disease, have authority to remove cases of contagious disease from private residences and other places to such hospital, for treatment and isolation during the continuance of such disease.

(Sec. 7, Act of May 24, 1917, P. L. 297)

## CHAPTER XIII.

### Special Revenue Provisions

**Sec. 1300. RECORD OF FINES FOR USE OF POOR.** It shall be the duty of every justice or magistrate who shall, by virtue of any law of this commonwealth, receive any fine, penalty or forfeiture appropriated by



law for the use of the poor, forthwith to enter at length on his docket, the name of the person convicted, the offense committed, the amount of such fine, penalty or forfeiture, and the time when the same was paid, and forthwith such justice shall pay over the same to the directors of the poor lawfully entitled thereto; and shall at all times, if required, exhibit his docket to the inspection of the auditor, or controller of such poor district.

(Sec. 35, Act of June 13, 1836, P. L. 539)

**Sec. 1301. NEGLECT OF DUTY BY JUSTICE.** If any justice or magistrate shall wilfully neglect or refuse to perform the duties enjoined on him as aforesaid, touching any fine, penalty or forfeiture appropriated to the use of the poor, he shall, on conviction thereof in the court of quarter sessions of the proper county, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor in office, and fined, for the use of the poor of the district in which he shall reside, any sum not exceeding One Hundred (\$100) Dollars; and if he shall be convicted of neglecting or refusing to pay over on demand, to the proper directors, any money which he shall have received as aforesaid, he shall be fined, over and above the last mentioned sum, any sum not exceeding double the amount which he shall have received as aforesaid; which sums shall be recovered by process of said court.

(Sec. 36, Act of June 13, 1836, P. L. 539)

**Sec. 1302. DUTY OF CLERK OF COURT.** It shall be the duty of the clerk of every court by whom any fine shall be imposed, which by law is to be appropriated, in whole or in part, to the use of the poor, forthwith to deliver a written notice of the same to the directors of the poor of the district entitled to receive said fine.

(Sec. 38, Act of June 13, 1836, P. L. 539)

**Sec. 1303. SHERIFF TO PAY OVER FINES COLLECTED.** It shall be the duty of every sheriff who shall have received any fine, penalty or forfeiture which by law may be appropriated to the use of the poor, to pay the same, to the proper directors of the poor; and if he shall fail to do so, within five days after demand, he shall, on conviction thereof in the court of quarter sessions of the proper county be fined and pay to the use of the poor of the proper district, any sum not exceeding double the amount received by him, to be recovered by the process of the said court.

(Sec. 40, Act of June 13, 1836, P. L. 539)

**Sec. 1304. GIFTS TO POOR CONSTRUED.** All gifts, grants, devises and bequests of any houses, lands, tenements, rents, goods, chattels, sum or sums of money to the poor of any poor district, or to any person or persons for the use of such poor, by deeds, or by last will and testament, or otherwise howsoever, shall be good and available in law, and shall pass such gifts, grants, devises and bequests to the authorities having charge of the poor of such poor district, for the use of said district.

(Sec. 15, Act of March 9, 1771)

**Sec. 1305. SAME TO BE RECEIVED BY DIRECTORS.** All fines, forfeitures, bequests, gifts and devises for the use of the poor of said district or now by law provided for any poor district which forms a part of said district under the provisions of this act, shall go to and be received by said

directors of the poor, who shall demand and receive the same and use, invest or expand the same as they in their judgment deem best for the purpose of providing support and employment for the poor and in paying the debts of said district.

(Sec. 16, Act of May 12, 1921, P. L. 538)

## CHAPTER XIV.

### Audit of Account

**Sec. 1400. ACCOUNTS TO BE AUDITED.** In addition to the powers and duties of county auditors and of county controllers as now conferred on them by law, it shall be their duty to audit, settle and adjust the accounts of the directors of the poor, and of the treasurer and steward of every county poor-house.

(Sec. 1, Act of April 22, 1879, P. L. 30, as amended by Act of June 2, 1881, P. L. 44)

## CHAPTER XV.

### Joint Districts

**Sec. 1500. PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL ESTATE AND ERECTION OF BUILDING BY DIRECTORS OF TWO OR MORE DISTRICTS. ADMINISTRATION BY JOINT BOARD.** The directors of the poor of any two or more conveniently located poor districts, are hereby authorized with the approval of the court of Common Pleas in each county to jointly lease or purchase real estate, and improve and erect buildings, and to provide tools, machinery, and stock as they may deem necessary and proper to provide a home or farm for the keeping, maintaining, and employing of such poor persons, as may be assigned to such home or farm by the directors of the poor of such districts; and there to keep, maintain, and employ such poor persons, and receive the benefit of the labor of such as are able to work for and toward their maintenance and support. The title for such real estate shall be taken in the joint names and for the joint use of the districts so uniting. No such joint action, as aforesaid, shall be had until it shall be separately ratified, and entered upon the records of the respective districts so uniting.

(Sec. 1, Act of May 8, 1913, P. L. 174)

**Sec. 1501. ORGANIZATION OF JOINT BOARDS.** The directors of the poor of any two or more poor districts, uniting as provided in Section 1500 of this act, shall, before they purchase or lease any real estate, meet as a board on a day certain, and annually thereafter, and organize by electing a president, secretary, and treasurer. The secretary and treasurer may be allowed such compensation as the board may determine. The treasurer shall give bond, in an amount to be fixed by the board, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of his office, which bond shall be deposited with the president of said board.

(Sec. 2, Act of May 8, 1913, P. L. 174)

**Sec. 1502. APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS AMONG DISTRICTS UNITING.** The board shall ascertain the amount required for the purchase or leasing of real estate, and the improvement and construction of buildings, together with the cost of equipment; and shall apportion such

amount among the districts so uniting, according to their population, or according to such other method or basis as may be agreed upon before such joint action starts; and the directors of such districts are hereby authorized to pay, from the poor funds of their respective districts, into the treasury of the board the amounts thus apportioned to their respective districts.

(Sec. 3, Act of May 8, 1913, P. L. 174)

**Sec. 1503. AUTHORITY TO BORROW MONEY, ISSUE BONDS, AND LEVY SPECIAL TAXES.** At any time after the organization of the board, the directors of the separate districts so uniting are authorized to borrow money, and issue bonds therefor and negotiate the same for the purpose of raising money to carry out the provisions of section 1502 of this act. Such bonds shall be payable by the separate districts issuing them, and shall not bear interest at a greater rate than six per centum, nor be sold below par. They may be renewed, from time to time, should the directors deem it advisable to do so. For the purpose of paying each district's share of the cost of such joint purchase or lease of real estate, and the permanent improving and equipping of the same, or for the purpose of paying debts incurred or bonds issued, according to the provisions of this section, the directors of the poor of the respective districts are hereby authorized to pay from the poor funds of their respective districts into the treasury of the board for a building or bond fund the amounts apportioned in the manner provided in Section 1502, in addition to the poor tax for current expenses.

(Sec. 4, Act of May 8, 1913, P. L. 174)

**Sec. 1504. MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF PROPERTY.** The board shall have control, management, and direction of the property leased or purchased, as aforesaid: and shall provide those things necessary for the maintenance and employment of inmates, make necessary repairs and improvement of building and lands, cause the land to be cultivated, and use the proceeds of such land and of the labor of the inmates for and toward the support and maintenance of the home or farm. The board shall elect each year, and fix their compensation, a superintendent, and such assistants and employes as they shall deem necessary, and they may appoint a physician and surgeon, all of whom shall be subject to removal by the board at any time.

(Sec. 5, Act of May 8, 1913, P. L. 174)

**Sec. 1505. MEETINGS OF BOARD. QUORUM. RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS.** A majority of the directors of the districts so uniting shall be a quorum for the transaction of business; they shall meet at such regular times and places as they may agree upon; visit and inspect the home and farm; and examine into its management; see that the inmates are properly treated, and cause any just grievances to be corrected or redressed; and shall keep a record of their proceedings, which shall be evidence of their actions in any subsequent judicial proceedings. The board may appoint an executive committee, consisting of such number of members of the board as may be agreed upon, and may delegate to such committee such powers and duties as the board may deem proper. The expenses of the board and of the executive committee shall be paid out of the joint fund.



No contract shall be approved, nor any expenditure authorized, of over five hundred dollars, except upon the vote of two-thirds of the board.

(Sec. 6, Act of May 8, 1913, P. L. 174)

**Sec. 1506. APPORTIONMENT OF MAINTENANCE EXPENSE.** The board shall at its annual meeting for organization, or as soon thereafter as possible, make a careful written estimate of the amount of money they deem necessary for the proper maintenance, operation, and support of said poor home or farm, for the ensuing year. The amount or amounts so determined upon shall be apportioned among the several districts so uniting, according to such method or basis as may have been agreed upon before such joint action started; and the directors of the poor of the several districts are authorized and required to pay, or to make provision to pay as needed, out of their poor fund, to the treasurer of the board, the amount so apportioned to their respective districts. Any income arising from the operation of said home or farm may be used to lessen the current expense to the several districts, for improvements, stock, and equipment, or at the option of the board, may be distributed among the several districts, according to such method or basis as may have been agreed upon.

(Sec. 7, Act of May 8, 1913, P. L. 174)

**Sec. 1507. ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT.** The board shall keep accurate accounts of all moneys received and paid by them in the performance of their duties. All accounts shall be audited by a board of three auditors, appointed by concurrence of the courts of common pleas of the counties, constituting such poor districts, which shall fix their compensation.

**Sec. 1508. DISCONTINUANCE OF JOINT DISTRICT.** Whenever such districts so uniting shall agree to discontinue such joint action and ownership, or where one or more districts shall desire to discontinue such joint action and ownership, the joint assets and indebtedness, or the share thereof of such district or districts, shall be apportioned or adjusted as may be agreed upon. In cases of failure so to agree, the matter may be adjudicated by the court of common pleas of any constituent county by a proceeding in equity.

(Sec. 8 and 9, Act of May 8, 1913, P. L. 174)



















